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ON THE COVER: About the only thing that was not incredible about Arkansas's first Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch was that it was discovered on the very highest point in the state, on top of Magazine Mountain, Logan County. Delighting many observers 6-9 (here 6) May 2012, excellent imagery of the bird confirms that it belongs to the widespread nominate subspecies. As discussed in the winter issue, this species was found well out of range, as far east as New York, which turned up its second this season. *Photograph by Charles Mills.*

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In recent years, as many species have been found nesting at higher elevations, vagrants, too, have been turning up at unusually high elevations, such as this Scarlet Tanager high in California's San Bernardino Mountains 20 May 2012 (see p. 576). *Photograph by Thomas A. Benson.*

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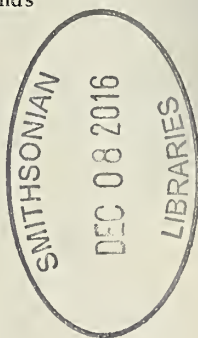
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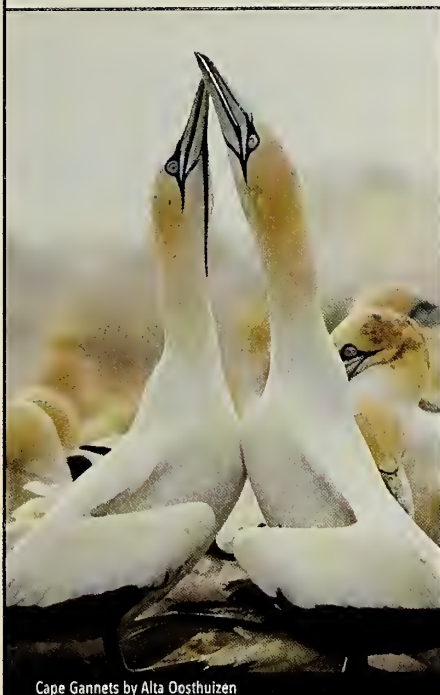
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Editors' Notebook

Here we go!

This past winter, when I was at the ABA booth at the Space Coast Festival in Titusville, Florida, a young birder approached, picked up a copy of *North American Birds*, opened it to the middle sections, and asked what the journal was. I could see he was interested but relatively new to birding. I put on my best spin and told him that it was a century-old journal that digests significant bird records on a continental level and tries to make sense of them, each season.

He looked a few feet across the aisle at the booth for eBird, with its colorful graphics and computer screens displaying gorgeous maps, then looked back at the journal's images and said: "Yeah. It kind of reminds me of those silent movies." He walked over to the eBird booth, where he spent a good half-hour learning the ropes.

As many readers know, our subscriber-ship—dedicated and loyal as you all are—is gradually getting smaller. Our subscribers under the age of 40 are few. There are many reasons for this stark demographic, but the chief reason is a cultural one: most birders do not come up through the ranks of local bird clubs whose roots are in field ornithology, clubs with mentors, clubs whose manna and mission are a devotion to the status and distribution of their region's birdlife. It's not true that we live in an age without mentors or bird clubs with scientific pedigree, but we do live in an age where great numbers of new birders, of all ages, are more self-taught than ever before. The people who might easily fall into step with the *North American Birds* tradition, birders seeking to understand bird distribution, look at the journal and think: Why on earth are these poor people squinting at smudgy black-and-white images and tiny print in the year 2013? And so the digital divide also segregates our tradition, both from young birders and from tech-savvy baby-boomers who have migrated away from print media, as so many have.

Looking back, we can easily explain

how we got where we are. What we can't easily justify is why, in the digital age, we have remained here.

And so we're announcing here, now, that *North American Birds* will soon begin its new life, as an electronic journal. It will continue to be a publication with fixed pagination, peer review of articles, and the like, and will still be archived, but instead of being printed and mailed, it will be downloaded to your devices of choice—your computers, laptops, tablets, and other smart devices.

The "silent movie" aspect to our regional reports is certainly a factor that drives our metamorphosis—the journal becomes increasingly anomalous in a world of sharp, colorful images that leave little to the imagination. Cost is another factor; at \$70,000 per year to print and mail the journal, we barely break even most years, even with your generous donations and the little advertising revenue we attract.

Make no mistake: the way in which information and images circulate is changing rapidly, but we have no intention of changing what is most valuable about the journal's traditions: the regional reports, Changing Seasons, features, salons, essays, and pictorial highlights will all be preserved. The grand tradition to which we are heirs has a right to persist and be handed down to the next generations of birders. After all, nowhere on the internet does one find the analysis and the synthesis that the regional reports and Changing Seasons provide.

Naturally, there are a few disadvantages of several kinds to leaving paper behind—the simple pleasure of reading with a journal in hand, for instance. Most of you reading this now did not come up with computers, and none of us foresaw tablets. But consider our new advantages:

- **Portability in the field**—the current issue, and all back issues, in fact, at your fingertips;
- **Searchability**—no more hunting for records for hours; you'll have all references to "wagtail" or "lapwing" in sec-

onds or less;

- **All-color Pictorial Highlights sections**, one to accompany each Regional Report;
- **An increase in color material and features** of many kinds, and in feature length, as we are not limited by page costs; and
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To give you some practice in downloading the journal online, go to nab.aba.org. You'll be able to download a full-color electronic version of this issue for free. We also encourage you to pass this web address along to anyone interested in subscribing. When the journal makes the transition completely, you'll see new, big, color maps and much-expanded photo galleries in the regional reports sections, but for now, we thought we'd give you a color version of our current issue. No more silent movies!

In the near future, too, we will probably begin to embed video, interactive maps, bibliographic hyperlinks and other bells and whistles that come standard with our software for electronic publication. Those will take a little time to master, but we intend to provide our readers with a timely, world-class publication that will make you all grin broadly, read avidly, and think deeply—one that will make you, our readers, proud, one that will do our forebears proud, and one that will attract and involve a new generation of birders who will carry on the tradition.

We invite your comments, as always, directed to the Editor by email, if you like. Possibly even more valuable would be a few minutes of your time replying to a short survey that we have set up online: www.surveymonkey.com/s/KPYB385 to gauge more carefully our readers' hopes, concerns, and expectations. Please do let us hear from you! And please do stay on board through the transition—without our devoted core, the dyed-in-the-wool, hardcore devotees of avian distribution, we will flicker and fade. Instead, let's blaze brightly and carry on the great tradition!

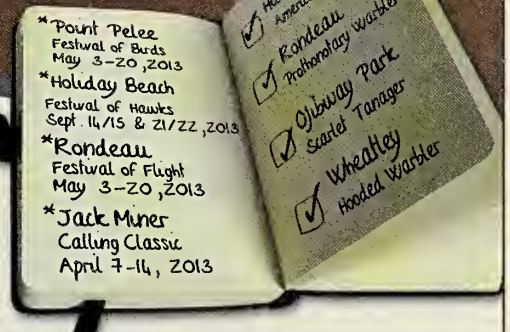
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Spring and fall migrations of Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*)

MICHAEL E. PETRUCHA • 6002 EAST HOUGHTON LAKE DRIVE, HOUGHTON LAKE, MICHIGAN 48629 • (MEPETRUCHA@HOTMAIL.COM)

PAUL W. SYKES, JR. • UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, PATUXENT WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER, ATHENS FIELD STATION,
WARNELL SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, ATHENS, GEORGIA 30602 • (JJSYKES@CHARTER.NET)

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This spring migrant Kirtland's Warbler, an adult male, was photographed at Point Pelee National Park, Ontario on 21 May 2006. Most records of migrating Kirtland's are males, most are in spring, and Ontario has a very large number of records of migrants, second only to Ohio's. Photograph by R. Curtis/VIREO.

Abstract

Little is known about migration of Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*). We synthesized migration occurrences from a variety of sources, including publications of many kinds, specimen collections, correspondence with observers, listserve archives, and unpublished historical documentation. We categorized this material in four ways: 1) records supported by specimens, photographs, or audio/video recordings, 2) sight records with acceptable written documentation but unsupported by evidence, 3) sight records without acceptable written documentation, per review by ornithological committees or other review, and 4) older sight records that were considered acceptable by at least some historical sources. Of the 562 records we located, 425 were supported by tangible evidence, acceptable written documentation, and/or were considered acceptable by historical sources. A majority of these records occurred in the spring. Reports that included descriptions of migration stop-over habitats and behavior commonly indicated use of shrub/scrub habitats and foraging. Our results show that the migration range of the species, primarily east of the Mississippi River, spans a much larger geographic region than previously reported in the literature. The number of spring records is strongly correlated with overall population increases derived from standardized population surveys in its breeding range, indicating that the number of spring records also may be an indicator of population trends. Despite the difficulties inherent in working with sight records, this study highlights the value in using a combination of peer-reviewed literature, specimens, and sight records to analyze the phenology of migration in a scarce species.

Background

Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*) nests primarily in Michigan and very sparingly or occasionally in Wisconsin and southern Ontario (Mayfield 1960, 1992, Walkinshaw 1983, Probst et al. 2003, Richard 2008) and winters in the Bahamas. In the United States, the species has been listed as federally Endangered since 1967 and continues to be so listed (Payne et al. 2008); it is likewise listed as federally Endangered in Canada (James 2000, COSEWIC 2008).

Although Kirtland's Warbler is known to be a short-distance Nearctic-Neotropical migrant, its migration range, behavior, and occurrences are poorly understood. Migration is often the least understood portion of a migratory species' biology (Faaborg et al. 2010), and that is certainly the case with Kirtland's Warbler (Byelich et al. 1985). Males arrive on the

breeding grounds as early as 1 May (Petrucha 2011), with an average arrival date of the first detected males being 12 May (Mayfield 1960), and females arrive a few days after the males (Walkinshaw 1983). Most leave the breeding grounds between late August and mid-September (Mayfield 1960, Sykes et al. 1989). Some birds remain on the breeding grounds until late September and in a few cases into early October (Sykes et al. 1989). Mayfield (1988, 1992) suggested that Kirtland's Warblers migrate in a single flight, but Ewert et al. (2012) found the duration of spring migration of Kirtland's Warbler ranged from 13 to 23 days, a duration that

includes stopovers.

Migration of Kirtland's Warbler has been treated in several publications. Butler (1897) hypothesized that the spring route was a narrow line from the Bahamas past the western end of Lake Erie toward Lake Superior. Chapman (1898) speculated that Kirtland's Warblers flew northward from the Bahamas up the eastern Atlantic coast to South Carolina, then northwestward through the Mississippi Valley, to the Hudson Bay region, returning south in the fall along the same route. Stejneger (1899) suggested that spring migrants follow a single, narrow route. These three authors made their

Table 1. Reports of Kirtland's Warbler in migration by state and province. Numbers in parentheses (total reports minus rejected reports) represent the number of records used for analysis.

State/Province	Spring	Fall	Unknown	Total
Alabama	2 (2)	1 (1)	0	3 (3)
Arkansas	0	4 (4)	0	4 (4)
District of Columbia	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)
Florida	15 (13)	19 (17)	0	34 (30)
Georgia	7 (7)	6 (4)	0	13 (11)
Illinois	24 (12)	8 (7)	0	32 (19)
Indiana	27 (13)	3 (2)	0	30 (15)
Iowa	0	0	1	1 (0)
Kentucky	5 (4)	6 (1)	0	11 (5)
Louisiana	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)
Maine	1 (1)	0	0	1 (1)
Manitoba	1 (0)	1 (0)	0	2 (0)
Maryland	1 (0)	2 (2)	0	3 (2)
Massachusetts	1 (1)	0	0	1 (1)
Michigan	52 (50)	11 (7)	0	63 (57)
Minnesota	10 (2)	3 (1)	0	13 (3)
Missouri	1 (1)	3 (1)	0	4 (2)
New York	4 (1)	0	0	4 (1)
North Carolina	3 (2)	9 (9)	1	13 (11)
Ohio	112 (94)	27 (27)	0	139 (121)
Ontario	98 (74)	10 (7)	0	108 (81)
Pennsylvania	9 (6)	8 (6)	0	17 (12)
Québec	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)
South Carolina	8 (7)	10 (8)	0	18 (15)
Tennessee	1 (1)	3 (1)	0	4 (2)
Virginia	8 (6)	11 (4)	0	19 (10)
West Virginia	4 (4)	2 (2)	1	7 (6)
Wisconsin	12 (10)	3 (2)	0	15 (12)
Totals	406 (311)	153 (114)	3	562 (425)

Table 2. Range of spring and fall migration dates for Kirtland's Warbler.

	Mainland			
	Spring		Fall	
	Earliest	Latest	Earliest	Latest
Male	22 Apr 1993 (FL)	2 Jun 2008 (ME)	26 Aug 2000 (PA)	29 Oct in 1903 (SC) & 2006 (FL)
Female	12 Apr 1902 (GA)	9 Jun 1860 (OH)	18 Sep 2009 (OH)	17 Oct 1999 (FL)
Range	12 Apr in 1897 (FL), 1902 (GA), & 1970 (FL)	9 Jun 1860 (OH)	1 Aug 1981 (FL)	26 Nov 1953 (FL)
	59 days		86 days	
	Bahamas			
	Latest Spring Date		Earliest Fall Date	
	2 May in 2004 & 2006 (Eleuthera)		20 Aug 1970 (New Providence Island)	

hypotheses before the discovery of the breeding grounds on 8 July 1903 by Norman A. Wood in northern Lower Michigan (Wood 1904, Mayfield 1960). Covert (1903) concluded that spring migrant Kirtland's Warblers followed river valleys. Adams (1904) expanded on Covert's river valley hypothesis and suggested that Kirtland's Warblers arrive on the Gulf Coast from the Bahamas, go westward to the Mississippi River Valley via pine barrens, then northward through Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio to Wisconsin and Michigan via various river valleys. Adams suggested that the South Carolina records were vagrants from the Gulf-Coast-to-Mississippi-River route. Van Tyne (1951) described the spring migration route as a direct line from the Bahamas to Michigan, and the fall migration route along a narrow line toward the Bahamas, crossing

the southern Appalachian Mountains. Mayfield (1988) also thought that the migration route was a narrow band between the Bahamas and the nesting grounds. Clench (1973) examined fall migration records and provided details on habitat and behavior. Walkinshaw (1983) provided spring and fall records without details on habitat or behavior. Bull (1989) summarizes spring records but also without details on habitat and behavior. In short: treatment of the spe-

Table 3. Habitats used by Kirtland's Warblers in migration.

Habitat type*	Description
Shrub/Scrub	Dominated by woody plants ≤ 20 feet, structure similar to breeding habitat.
Residential	Private yards, varied habitats.
Park	Open area with widely scattered trees and shrubs similar to a city park.
Woodland	Dominated by trees > 20 feet tall and generally having a closed canopy.
Orchard	Fruit tree plantation.
Open	Exposed soil with little vegetation.

* Habitat types adapted from Igl and Ballard (1999).

Table 4. Frequency of use by Kirtland's Warbler at stopover habitats by sex and season.

	Spring				Fall				Spring & Fall
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Unknown (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Unknown (%)	Total (%)	Total (%)
Shrub/Scrub	76 (84.4)	20 (80.0)	14 (100.0)	110 (85.7)	10 (71.4)	5 (83.3)	29 (76.3)	44 (78.6)	154 (82.4)
Residential	6 (6.7)	2 (8.0)	0 (0.0)	8 (6.2)	4 (28.6)	1 (16.7)	7 (18.4)	12 (17.9)	20 (10.7)
Park	4 (4.4)	1 (4.0)	0 (0.0)	5 (3.9)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (5.3)	2 (3.6)	7 (3.7)
Orchard	3 (3.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (2.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.6)
Woodland	1 (1.1)	1 (4.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.1)
Open	0 (0.0)	1 (4.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.5)
Totals	90	25	14	129	14	6	38	58	187

Figure 1. Distribution of reports of Kirtland's Warblers in spring migration through 2011. In Figures 1-3, some symbols represent multiple reports.

cies' migration routes, stopover habitats, and migratory behaviors of the Kirtland's Warbler varies considerably in the literature and has been in need of revision, especially in recent times, given the surge in the species' population and in records of migrants.

Methods

We collected and analyzed all verifiable records of migrant Kirtland's Warblers through the end of 2011; these include records confirmed by specimens, photographs, films, video, sound recordings, or bandings. Since 1996, we have also researched, solicited, and archived unverifiable records of the species, including those sight records detailed in the scientific literature, archived field notes, books, reports written for records committees, archived discussions of birding groups online (e.g., listserve groups), and databases of many different sorts. An advantage in using this broader array of sources is that it provides a larger sample size from a larger community of observers throughout the eastern United States and Canada, and records often include information on behavior, stopover localities, and details on timing of migration.

In compiling these records (Appendices 1, 2), we also consulted existing published summaries in Mayfield (1960), Huber (1982), Walkinshaw (1983), Stone (1986), and state-level monographs, as well as unpublished records archived in the North American Bird Phenological Program (NAB-PP) at the Patuxent Wildlife

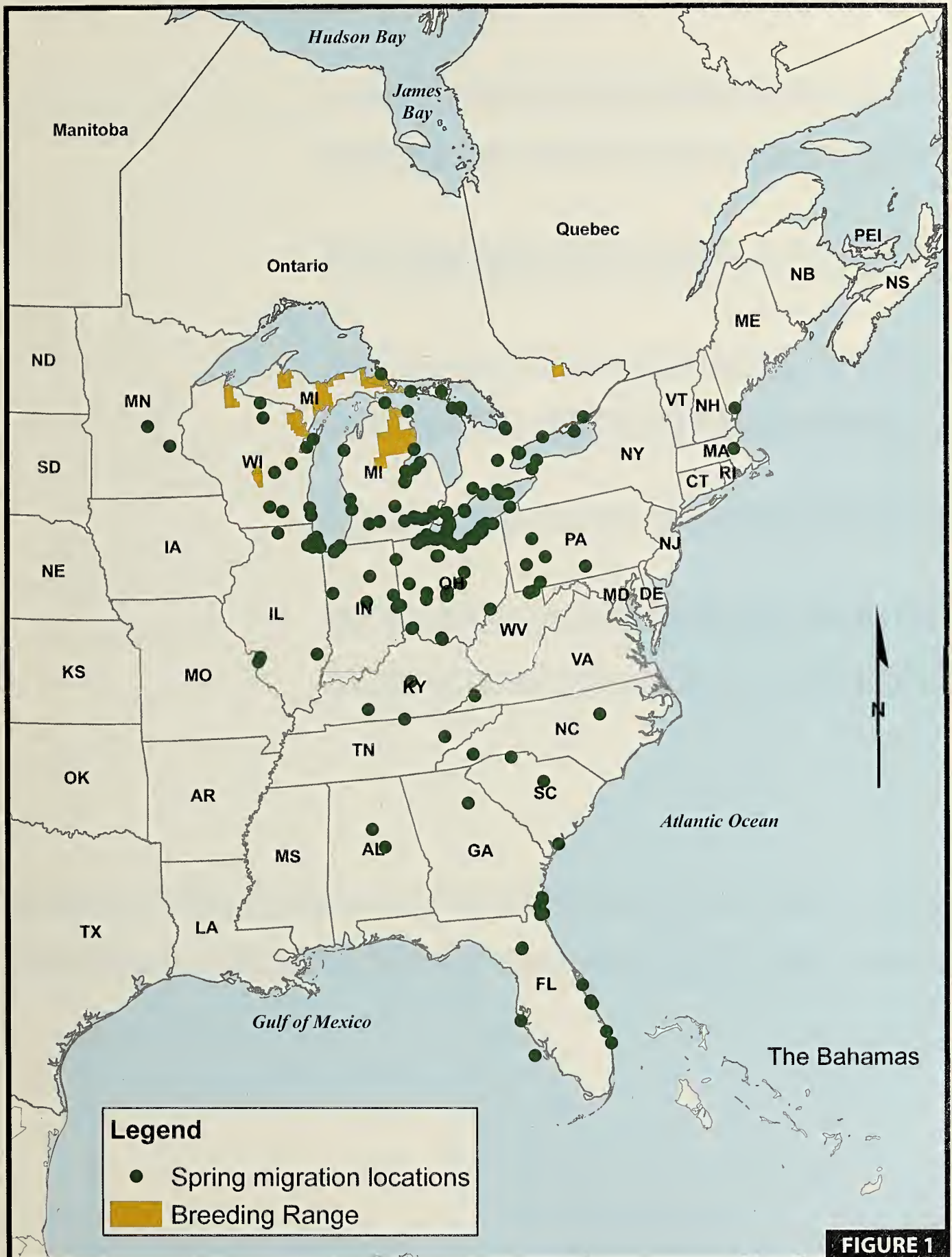


FIGURE 1

Table 5. Frequency of Kirtland's Warbler migration stopover behaviors (n=369).

Singing	Foraging	Tail-pumping	Approachable	Preening	Chipping	Alone
73	87	84	19	5	11	20
Not singing	Resting	No tail-pumping	Slower than other warblers	Bathing	Silent	With other species
12	3	7	13	1	10	24

Table 6. Frequency of foraging methods, foraging heights, and foods observed taken by migrating Kirtland's Warblers.

FORAGING METHODS				
Gleaning	Flycatching	On Ground		Total
42	15	14		71*
FORAGING HEIGHT				
Ground	Shrub/scrub (>0-20 ft.)	Canopy (>20 ft.)		Total
14	43	2		59*
FOOD TYPES				
Invertebrates	Berries	Sea Grape fruit	Gumbo Limbo fruit	Total
21	1	1	1	24*

*Independent of each other.

Research Center (PWRC) at Laurel, Maryland. Whenever possible, we obtained the original accounts, which were often first distributed via Internet; for this reason, we digest and make frequent reference to web-posted material in the Appendices. We maintain printed copies of all such material, in case of electronic data loss or destruction of archives.

The nature of sight records precludes verification of their accuracy. However, many such records have been carefully reviewed by state and provincial records committees or have been deemed accurate or probably accurate by past or present compilers, reviewers, and editors. In addition to following up on committees' review of records, the authors have made

Figure 2. Distribution of reports of Kirtland's Warblers in fall migration through 2011. Not shown is the 18-19 December 2004 record from Bermuda (Dobson 2005), certainly a fall migrant that was not discovered until December.

a point of contacting observers directly, as well as compilers and reviewers, in order to learn as much as possible about each individual record as soon after the observation as possible. In a few cases, modern sight records included here have been reviewed only by the authors and not by official committees; in a few cases, we have accepted records that are currently not accepted by committees. Those reports of Kirtland's Warblers that are clearly incorrect are not included in our database; more detailed records that have been reviewed and not accepted by committees are included in the Appendices to indicate that the authors have considered them (these records are not used for analysis in this paper). Observations were divided into four types and color-coded for ease of reference:

- GREEN - record supported by specimen, photograph, or audio/video recording
- BLUE - acceptable sight record that is not supported by tangible evidence
- BLACK - unacceptable sight record, according to review of committee or other review
- PURPLE - older sight record accepted by at least some historical sources

Even with attempts to minimize inclusion of possibly incorrect sight records, some errors are likely to persist among the data used for analysis. However, the large sample size should make the effect of such errors negligible for the general analysis of migration presented here. Another advantage in using

Table 7. Number of days Kirtland's Warblers spent at stopovers by season and sex.

	Spring				Fall				
# Days	Male (%)	Female (%)	Unknown (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Unknown (%)	Total (%)	Cumulative (%)
1	114 (87.0)	28 (82.4)	99 (95.2)	241 (89.6)	15 (88.2)	5 (83.3)	73 (91.3)	93 (90.3)	334 (89.8)
2	6 (4.6)	3 (8.8)	1 (1.0)	10 (3.7)	1 (5.9)	1 (16.7)	5 (6.3)	7 (6.8)	17 (4.6)
3	5 (3.8)	3 (8.8)	3 (2.9)	11 (4.1)	1 (5.9)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.0)	12 (3.2)
4	2 (1.5)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.5)
5	1 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.0)	2 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.5)
6	3 (2.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)	1 (1.0)	4 (1.1)
12	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)	1 (1.0)	1 (0.3)
# Records	131	34	104	269	17	6	80	103	372
# Days	172	43	115	330	20	7	101	128	458
Mean	1.31	1.26	1.11	1.23	1.18	1.16	1.26	1.24	1.23

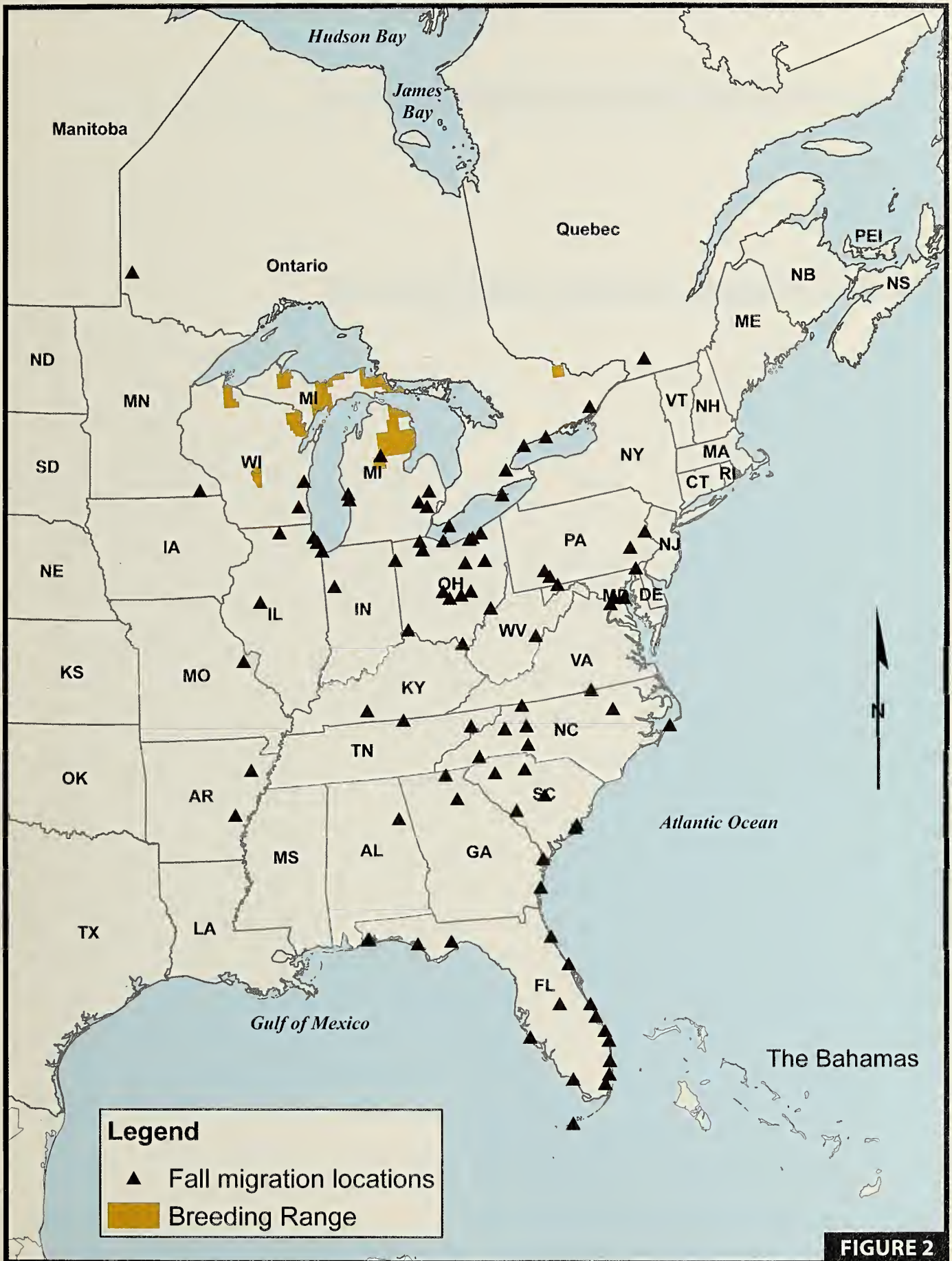


FIGURE 2

Table 8. Number of reports of Kirtland's Warblers migrating individually or in groups.

Number of reports as single individuals	393 (92.5%)
Number of reports in multiples	32 (7.5%)
Number of times recorded in multiples	15
Number of times recorded as 2 birds	13*
Number of times recorded as 3 birds	2**
* Includes two records of a male and a female together. ** Includes one record of 2 males and a female together.	

sight records is that the detailed records often include notes on behaviors and habitats. This information, along with basic information on date, location, plumage, and sex, was summarized from the varied source material and maintained in a spreadsheet for analysis. During our research, we noted several errors and inconsistencies in the literature; some of these are digested in Appendix 3.

The abbreviations used herein for locations and directions follow conventions of *North American Birds*, and we likewise define seasons as per the journal's reporting seasons: spring migration being 1 March through 31 May, summer 1 June through 31 July, and fall migration from 1 August through 30 November. June records for Maine, Ohio, and Ontario, however, were included in the spring category because they were relevant to migration. Coordinates for accepted records were plotted using Arc-Map (part of the Esri ArcGIS software suite).

To develop a better understanding of trends between the number of reported migrating Kirtland's Warblers and population trends on

breeding grounds, we compared our compilation of records to population numbers obtained from standardized surveys on breeding grounds (Probst et al. 2005, Petrucha and Kintigh 2012). The standardized scientific survey of singing male Kirtland's Warblers is conducted annually 6-15 June (through 2010) and 6-20 June (2011 and subsequent years) by biologists and trained volunteers. The survey is conducted between sunrise and 1100 EDT by observers walking roughly parallel transects spaced 320-400 meters apart, through suitable habitat throughout the bird's breeding range. Under good weather conditions, the song can be heard for 400 meters; counts are not conducted during inclement weather. When a male is heard, its trajectory and time are recorded so that triangulation methodology can be used. After completion of transects, notes are compared and reconciled to minimize duplication of male locations (Probst et al. 2005).

Results

We located 562 records (Appendices 1, 2).

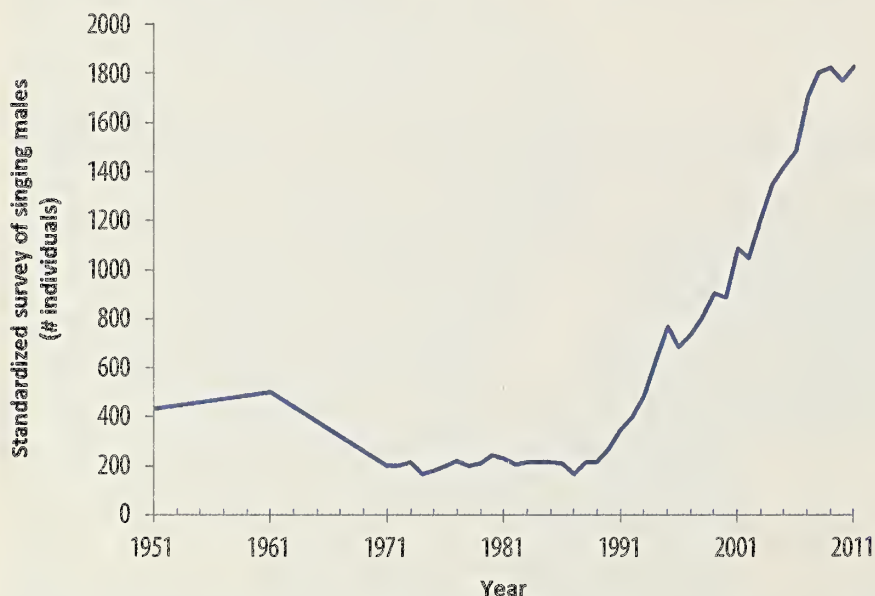
Figure 3. Distribution of reports of Kirtland's Warblers in spring and fall migrations through 2011. Some symbols represent multiple reports.

Of these, 425 may be considered acceptable for analysis ("accepted") as defined above. Of these, 406 are spring records (311 accepted), and 153 are fall records (114 accepted). For three records, no season was specified (not used for analysis). The records come from 24 states, three provinces, and the District of Columbia (Table 1). Our analysis below incorporates only those records deemed acceptable.

Ohio (94), Ontario (74), and Michigan (50) have the majority of spring records. Ohio (27) and Florida (17) have the majority of fall records. Together, Ohio (121), Ontario (81), and Michigan (57) have the largest numbers of combined spring and fall records of migrants. The 562 records include 54 specimen records. Of the 510 other records, 420 are sight records; 66 are supported by photographs, video, film, and sound recordings; two are banding records; five involve re-sightings of color-banded individuals; and one record is of a bird that was captured but escaped. Singing was reported on 85 occasions, with eight records being of heard birds only. Identification to sex was reported in 231 accepted records. Males were reported 175 times (75.8%), with 154 noted in the spring and 21 in the fall. Females were reported 56 times (24.2%), with 50 in spring and 6 in fall.

The earliest mainland spring record is 12 April west of Jupiter, Palm Beach County, Florida, and the latest 9 June in the Cleveland, Ohio area (Table 2, Appendix 1). The earliest fall mainland record is 1 August at Lower Saddlebunch Keys, Monroe County, Florida, and the latest is 26 November at Pensacola, Florida (Table 2, Appendix 2). Based on the extreme arrival and departure dates, Kirtland's Warbler migration spans approximately 86 days in fall and 59 days in spring (Table 2). The latest spring record for the Bahamas is 2 May (2004 and 2006) on Eleuthera (J. M. Wunderle, Jr., unpubl. data). The latest record on the breeding grounds was of a color-banded male Kirtland's Warbler at Ogemaw Management Unit, Ogemaw County, Michigan on 6 October 1992 (Sykes, unpubl. data). The earliest reliable fall record for the Bahamas is 20 August 1970 at the Nassau Airport, New Providence Island (Roberson 1971). (A report from Grand Bahama on 5 August 1964 [Hundley 1967] is considered incorrect; see Appendix 3).

Records of migrant Kirtland's Warblers cluster near shorelines (Figures 1, 2, and 3). Multiple sites have multiple, even overlapping records. For instance, Point Pelee, Ontario has 50 records and Magee Marsh, Ohio has 24.


Figure 4. Number of Kirtland's Warblers located during standardized surveys by Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

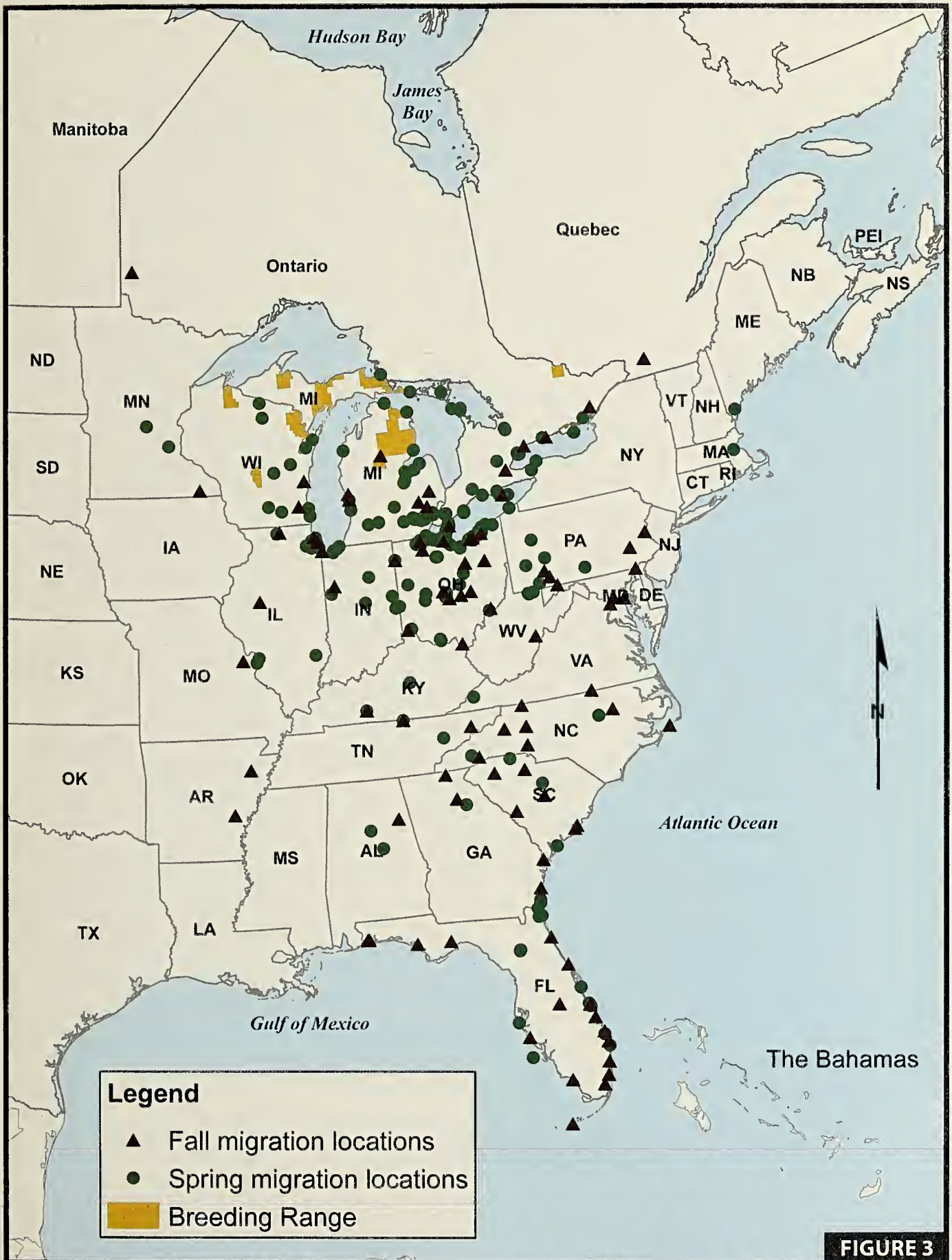


FIGURE 3

As Figures 1 and 2 demonstrate, there is a broad migratory zone between the breeding and wintering areas rather than a narrow migratory corridor, as hypothesized by early writers. Spring migration is primarily east of the Mississippi River, mostly between 80° and 90° W longitude (range 94.2°–70.6°). Spring records cluster in southern Michigan and Ontario, and in northern Ohio and Illinois; spring records are more widely scattered in Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio (south of Lake Erie), western Pennsylvania, and along the Atlantic coast of Florida, South Carolina, and Georgia. In the Upper Midwest, Kirtland's Warblers have often been found along the coasts of Lakes Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario. Except in the coastal Southeast, records of fall migrants are less geographically concentrated than those of spring migrants and tend to be farther east, with a mean longitude of 82.9° W. There are more fall records to the south than the north (Figure 2).

Descriptions of stopover habitats were available for 204 record localities, of which 184 were useable for habitat classification. These habitats were classified into six broad types (Table 3). Our results show that the habitat most often used by migrant Kirtland's Warblers is shrub/scrub (82.4% of birds), habitat similar in structure to those habitats found on the breeding and wintering grounds (*sensu* Mayfield 1960, Smith 1979, Walkinshaw 1983, Probst and Hayes 1987, Sykes and Clench 1998, Currie et al. 2005). Kirtland's Warblers were also reported in 20 residential areas (10.7%), seven park-like sites (3.7%), three orchards (1.6%), two woodland areas (1.1%), and one open area (0.5%) (Table 4). There is also a record of a Kirtland's Warbler landing on a boat in Florida (Lomas 1965).

In the case of 179 records, observers made notes on the behavior of migrants (Table 5). Foraging was observed 87 times and was the most frequently noted behavior. Foraging methods at stopovers included gleaning, flycatching, and ground searching (Table 6). Foraging habitats were noted in the case of 56 records. Three records indicated birds that foraged in two different habitat types. Kirtland's Warblers were noted foraging most frequently in shrub/scrub habitats (43 records) but also on the ground and in the canopy (14 and two records, respectively) (Table 6). Food

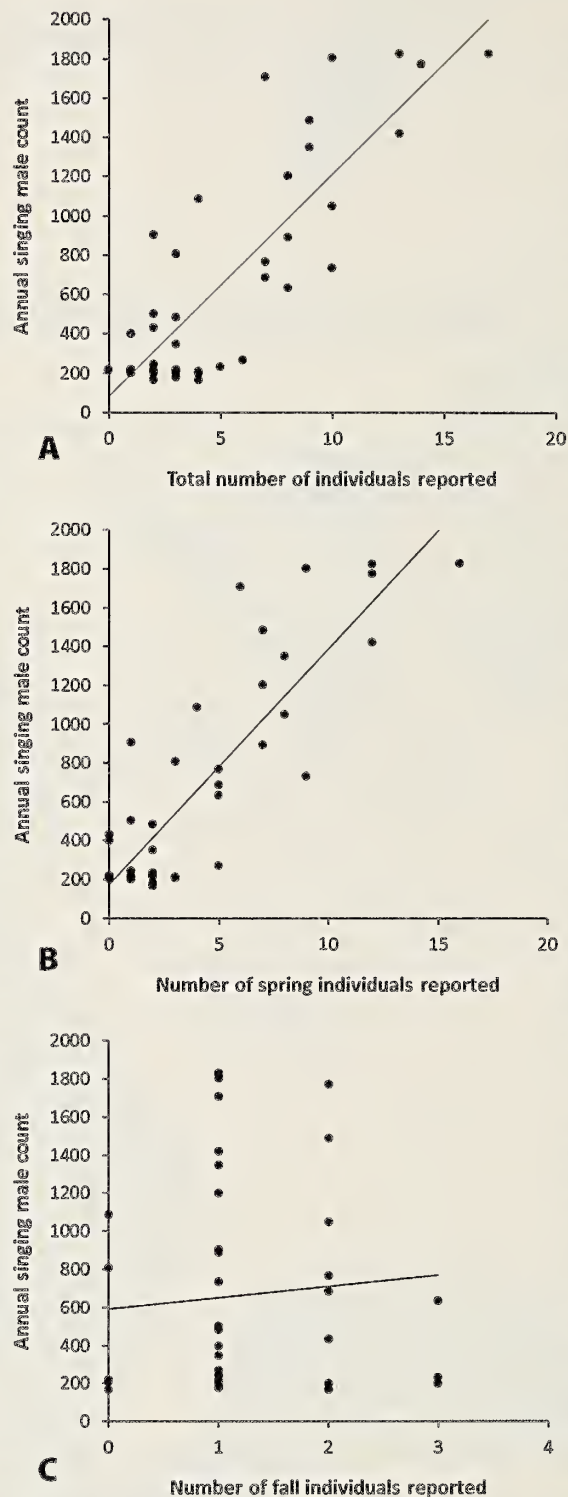


Figure 5. Relationship between standardized annual singing male counts and the total number of migrants reported (excluding rejected reports) A) annually, B) during spring migration, and C) during fall migration.

types were infrequently described, although invertebrates were mentioned in the case of 21 records. Kirtland's Warblers were also observed consuming berries, Sea Grape (*Coccoloba*

uvifera), and Gumbo Limbo (*Bursera simaruba*) fruits on one occasion each.

Most foraging heights were just above ground surface to ca. 7 meters (20 feet) in shrub/scrub (Table 6), similar to foraging heights on the breeding and wintering grounds (Mayfield 1960, Probst and Weinrich 1993, Sykes and Clench 1998, Wunderle et al. 2010). Several authors describe migrant Kirtland's Warblers as solitary or as joining feeding flocks but not obviously associating with other species (Bull 1989, Mayfield 1992). Twenty records of migrants mention the birds being solitary or not obviously interacting with other species; however, 24 records include details on interaction with other species (Table 5). Graber et al. (1983) reported that observers in the Illinois region were "variously impressed" with tail-pumping, loud singing, tameness, and slow movements of migrant Kirtland's Warblers. These behaviors were among the most frequently reported (Table 5). Almost 90% of records were of birds observed for only one day (Table 7). The average length for stopovers for spring and fall migrations is 1.2 days, and there is no difference between spring and fall in length of stopover. From the records, it appears that Kirtland's Warblers primarily migrate individually, as 92% are of lone birds (Table 8). Multiple birds were recorded 15 times, with 2 occurring together 13 times and three together twice. Male and female Kirtland's have been recorded together only three times.

Since 1987, counts of singing Kirtland's Warblers during standardized annual surveys on the breeding grounds have increased steadily (Figure 4). The increase in records of migrant Kirtland's Warblers parallels the trend observed from these standardized annual surveys, at least starting in the early 1990s (Tables 9, 10). This relationship between standardized surveys and records of migrants is strong for spring records but weak for fall records (Figure 5, Table 11).

Discussion

The fall migration of Kirtland's Warbler is consistent with other songbirds in that it is spread over a longer period of time than spring migration. Even though more Kirtland's Warblers migrate in the fall than spring, over 73% of records of migrants have been made during spring. This may be primarily due to the singing and bright plumage of males at that time of year. In fall, males

do not sing, are in basic plumage (tinged brownish above), and are more furtive. In fall, immature males cannot be distinguished from females in the field, and some adult males and females are difficult to distinguish as well.

In this paper, the number of records may not equal the number of individual Kirtland's observed, as an unknown number of records could represent the same individuals; alternatively, some records of a single may in fact merge multiple individuals into a single record. For instance, some Kirtland's Warblers were seen by multiple observers at different times of the day and on different dates at localities that are heavily birded. Unless birds are color-banded or in obviously different plumages, it is not always possible to determine if individual birds observed over time by the same or different observers were the same or different birds. This difficulty is magnified in the age of web-posted details from multiple observers.

Our synthesis of records shows that the migratory route is neither a narrow band (*sensu* Mayfield 1988) nor limited to river valleys. In addition to numerous records from southern Ontario, records are spread over most of the United States east of the Mississippi River, with the core breeding area (Michigan) almost due magnetic north of the center of the species' wintering grounds in the Bahamas (NOAA 2010). In spring, the migration records widen fan-like as the birds move northward (Figure 1). Fall records are more scattered, with movements through central and eastern Ohio, western North and South Carolina, to the Atlantic coast of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida (Figure 2). This broader pattern may be due, at least in part, to the large number of hatch-year birds making their first migration. Records of migrant Kirtland's Warblers cluster along coastlines, particularly of the Great Lakes and Atlantic Ocean. Midges and other emerging aquatic insects are important food resources to spring migrants in the Midwest (Ewert and Hamas 1996). This may well be true of Kirtland's Warblers as well; the few records that mention food appear to indicate that invertebrates dominate the stopover diet of this species. However, the concentration of records of migrants near water is probably most attributable to the popularity of such areas among birders during spring migration, as migrants concentrate in traditional areas, either awaiting favorable weather conditions for onward migration or having just made landfall after crossing water.

In the records, habitat descriptions vary

Table 9. Reports of Kirtland's Warblers observed in migration in comparison to the singing male census year results.

Year	Spring	Fall	Total	Total Singing Male Count	Event of Interest
1951	0	2	2	432	First census
1961	1	1	2	502	Second census
1971	1	1	2	201	Start of annual census
1972	0	1	1	200	
1973	0	1	1	216	
1974	2	2	4	167	Lowest count (also see 1987 below)
1975	2	1	3	179	
1976	1	3	4	200	
1977	2	1	3	219	
1978	1	2	3	200	
1979	3	0	3	211	
1980	1	1	2	243	Mack Lake Burn, 5 May, Huron National Forest, Oscoda Co., 9644 hectares (Simard et al. 1983)
1981	2	3	5	232	
1982	2	1	3	207	
1983	2	0	2	215	
1984	1	0	1	215	
1985	0	0	0	217	
1986	0	1	1	210	First warblers occupy the Mack Lake Burn Area (Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources 1986 Census)
1987	2	0	2	167	Lowest count
1988	0	0	0	215	
1989	2	1	3	214	
1990	5	1	6	267	
1991	2	1	3	348	
1992	0	1	1	398	
1993	2	1	3	485	
1994	5	3	8	633	
1995	5	2	7	766	
1996	5	2	7	686	
1997	9	1	10	733	
1998	3	0	3	805	
1999	1	1	2	905	
2000	7	1	8	891	
2001	4	0	4	1085	
2002	8	2	10	1050	
2003	7	1	8	1202	
2004	8	1	9	1348	
2005	12	1	13	1420	
2006	7	2	9	1486	
2007	6	1	7	1707	
2008	9	1	10	1803	
2009	12	1	13	1826	
2010	12	2	14	1773	
2011	16	1	17	1828	Highest count since censusing began

from very detailed notes to vague descriptions such as "yard" or "trees." Dawson (1903) noted Kirtland's Warblers were found "frequenting the lower levels of bushes and trees." In Illinois, Kirtland's Warblers were found in low edge vegetation or on the ground (Graber et al. 1983). Mayfield (1960) describes spring migration habitat preferences as "low elevations and brushy situations." In the records summarized here, most habitats used by migrant Kirtland's Warblers are best described as shrub/scrub, similar in structure to that on the breeding and wintering grounds.

Standardized scientific annual surveys of singing male Kirtland's Warblers show an increasing population since 1987, and records of migrants have increased since that time as well. Although the increasing number of records

of migrant Kirtland's Warblers can potentially be explained by many factors—including the increasing number of birders, the increasing number of reporting venues, increasing quality of field identification information, and improvements in optics—the strong correlation with the standardized survey results indicates that at least some of the increase in records is attributable to the increase in population.

Despite the difficulties in vetting and analyzing sight records, whether in citizen-science contexts or from individuals outside the context of such projects, the advantages of using carefully vetted sight records are manifest. In the case of Kirtland's Warbler, records analyzed in this paper show a much broader geographic and longer temporal span of migration than do earlier efforts to assess migration in the species. To acquire data on migrant Kirtland's Warblers using an array of standardized surveys dispersed throughout eastern North America would be costly and logistically prohibitive. Our understanding of Kirtland's Warblers' migratory routes—and of the value of shrub/scrub habitats for migrants—is richer and more robust because of the contributions of birders to the literature on this endangered species.

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Table 10. Accepted reports of migrant Kirtland's Warblers by decade.

Decade	Spring	Fall	Total
1851-1860	4	0	4
1861-1870	0	0	0
1871-1880	8	0	8
1881-1890	9	4	13
1891-1900	13	0	13
1901-1910	28	5	33
1911-1920	13	7	20
1921-1930	10	4	14
1931-1940	11	12	23
1941-1950	9	14	23
1951-1960	14	7	21
1961-1970	24	11	35
1971-1980	13	15	28
1981-1990	16	8	24
1991-2000	40	12	52
2001-2011	99	13	112

Table 11. Linear correlation coefficients among spring reports, fall reports, total reports, and the annual census data on breeding grounds. Values closer to 1 signify stronger relationships, and values closer to 0 signify weaker relationships.

	Year	Spring reports	Fall reports	Total reports	Annual census of males
Year	1.00				
Spring reports	0.77	1.00			
Fall reports	-0.06	0.13	1.00		
Total reports	0.72	0.98	0.32	1.00	
Annual census of males	0.80	0.86	0.08	0.84	1.00

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Appendix 1

Records of spring migrant Kirtland's Warblers, arranged chronologically by state and province with location data and sources, and, if known, the sex and habitat. The record's relevant supporting elements are noted under Type: specimen; sighting; song; photograph; videotape; film; audirecorded (voice recording). In the case of reports of multiple birds in one site on the same day, data are repeated for each bird.

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
Alabama (n=2 reports accepted)					
10 May 1908	Woodbine, Coosa Co.	Male		Sighting/song	Saunders (1908)
7 May 1936	Municipal Airport, Birmingham, Jefferson Co.	Female		Sighting	Imhof (1956), Imhof (1962)
Florida (n=15; 13 accepted, 2 not accepted)					
27 Apr 1896	Jupiter Inlet, Palm Beach Co.	Male		Specimen	Cory (1898), Stevenson and Anderson (1994)
12 Apr 1897	w. of Jupiter, Palm Beach Co.			Specimen	Stone (1986)
19 Apr 1897	w. of Jupiter, Palm Beach Co.			Sighting	Cory (1898)
early May 1930/1931	Road to Sawpit Creek, Duval Co.	Female		Specimen	Mason (1960)
1 May 1932	w. of Black Hammock I. between New Berlin Rd. and Pumpkin Hill Cr., Duval Co.	Female		Specimen	Langridge and Hunter (1984), Sykes (1996)
26 Apr 1934	Bivan's Arm, Gainesville, Alachua Co.			Sighting	McClanahan (1935)
23 April 1939	Fort Myers, Lee Co.			Sighting	T. Standley (NABPP)
spring 1965	Gulf of Mexico between Captiva Pass and Redfish Pass (10-12 miles offshore)	Male		Sighting	Lomas (1965)
12 Apr 1970	Gainesville, Alachua Co.			Sighting	Wallace (1971)
29 Apr 1982	Hypoluxo I., Palm Beach Co.	Male	Residential	Sighting	Kale (1982), Langridge and Hunter (1984)
11 May 1989	Max Hoeck Wildlife Drive, Merritt Island N.W.R., Brevard Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Martin (1989)
22 Apr 1993	n. of CR 510, Orchid I., Indian River Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Langridge (1993), Weigley (1993)
10 May 2005	Fort DeSoto County Park, St. Petersburg, Pinellas Co	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/ photograph	Anderson (2005), Sullivan (2005), Hait (2005), Kratter (2010)
10-12 May 2007	s. side of Sebastian Inlet S.P., Indian River Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/ photograph	Book (2007), Kratter (2007), Newton (2007), Paxson (2007), Simpson (2007a, 2007b), R. Paxson (in litt.)

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
24 Apr 2009	Lori Wilson Park, Cocoa Beach, Brevard Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/ photograph/ banded	B. Keskinens, K. Keskinens (in litt.)
Georgia (n=7 accepted)					
12 Apr 1902	Cumberland I., Camden Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Specimen	Helme (1904), Beaton et al. (2003), USNM (2010)
16 Apr 1902	St. Marys, Camden Co.			Specimen	Greene et al. (1945), Burleigh (1958)
14 Apr 1903	n. end of Cumberland I., Camden Co.	Female		Specimen	Greene et al. (1945)
27 Apr 1904	Cumberland I., Camden Co.	Male		Specimen	Sprunt (1936), Walkinshaw (1983)
26 Apr 1905	Cumberland I., Camden Co.	Male		Specimen	USNM (2010)
29 Apr 1967	Athens, Clarke Co.	Male		Sighting/song	Peake (2001)
12 May 1969	Athens, Clarke Co.			Sighting	Paget (1983), Stone (1986), Beaton et al. (2003)
Illinois (n=24; 12 accepted, 12 not accepted)					
7 May 1894	Glen Ellyn, DuPage Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Specimen	Gault (1894), USNM (2010), B. Gault (unpubl. data)
23 or 25 May 1894	Rockford, Winnebago Co.			Specimen	Jones (1895), Kassebaum (2006) J. E. Dickinson (NABPP)
21-22 May 1899	Morgan Park, Chicago, Cook Co.	Male	Orchard	Specimen/song	Blackwelder (1899), USNM (2010)
18 May 1901	Chicago, Cook Co.			Sighting	Anonymous (NABPP)
3 May 1908	"Bird Haven" (R. Ridgway property), Olney, Richland Co.	Male		Sighting	Ridgway (1914)
16 May 1908	LaGrange, Cook Co.	Male		Sighting/song	Moyer (1908)
19 May 1910	Glen Ellyn, DuPage Co.			Sighting	Graber et al. (1983), Gault (unpubl. data)
28 Apr 1932	Blue I., Cook Co.			Sighting	Bartel and Reuss (1932), Bartel (1933)
18 May 1934	Jackson Park, Chicago, Cook Co.			Sighting	Ford (1956)
20 May 1945	Chain-of-Rocks Bridge, Chouteau I., Madison Co.			Sighting	Kassebaum (2006)
12 May 1947	Salt Creek, near LaGrange, Cook Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Ford (1956)

SPRING AND FALL MIGRATIONS OF KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
12 May 1947	Salt Creek, near LaGrange, Cook Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Ford (1956)
12 May 1947	Salt Creek, near LaGrange, Cook Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Ford (1956)
12 May 1947	Salt Creek, near LaGrange, Cook Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Ford (1956)
12 May 1947	Salt Creek, near LaGrange, Cook Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Ford (1956)
12 May 1947	Salt Creek, near LaGrange, Cook Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Ford (1956)
10 May 1979	Chicago, Cook Co.			Sighting	Kleen (1979)
12 May 1996	Schiller Woods Forest Preserve, Cook Co.			Sighting	Johnson et al. (1998)
14 May 1997	DuPage Woods, DuPage Co.			Sighting	Johnson and Stotz (1999)
18 May 2003	Sulky Pond, Crabtree Nature Center, Cook Co.			Sighting	Williamson (2003)
13 May 2004	DuPage Woods, Elsen's Hill Unit, DuPage Co.			Sighting	Secker (2004)
21 May 2006	Kankakee Co.			Sighting	G. Williamson (in litt.)
23 May 2006	Gillson Park, Wilmette, Cook Co.	Male	Park	Sighting/ photograph	Sullivan (2006), Hengeveld et al. (2006), Kassebaum (2006), R. Hughes (in litt.)
21 May 2008	Lincoln Park, Chicago, Cook Co.			Sighting/ photograph	G. Williamson (in litt.)

Indiana (n=27; 13 accepted, 14 not accepted)

26 Apr 1890	Terre Haute, Vigo Co.			Sighting	B. Evermann (NABPP)
4 May 1892	Wabash, Wabash Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Specimen	Ulrey (1893), Ulrey and Wallace (1895), USNM (2010)
7 May 1895	Near Wabash, Wabash Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub, Orchard	Specimen/song	Ulrey and Wallace (1895), Stone (1986), UMMZ (database)
13 May 1905	6 mi. e. of Richmond, Wayne Co.	Female (1905)	Shrub/scrub	Specimen	Dennis (1905), Dennis & Petry
7 May 1906	Richmond, Wayne Co.			Sighting	Petry (1909)
11 May 1907	Richmond, Wayne Co.			Sighting	L. Gano (NABPP)
18 May 1908	Richmond, Wayne Co.	Female		Sighting	Petry (1909)
14 May 1916	Fort Wayne, Allen Co.			Sighting	A. Ringwalt (NABPP)
18 May 1916	Indianapolis, Marion Co.			Sighting	E. Wilson (NABPP)

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
30 May 1917	Fort Wayne, Allen Co.			Sighting	A. Ringwalt (NABPP)
25 May 1918	Tremont, Porter Co.			Sighting	Walkinshaw (1983), Bull (1989)
25 May 1919	Fort Wayne, Allen Co.			Sighting	A. Ringwalt (NABPP)
26 Apr 1920	Kokomo, Howard Co.			Sighting	S. Wilson (NABPP)
26 Apr 1920	Kokomo, Howard Co.			Sighting	S. Wilson (NABPP)
26 Apr 1920	Kokomo, Howard Co.			Sighting	S. Wilson (NABPP)
26 Apr 1920	Kokomo, Howard Co.			Sighting	S. Wilson (NABPP)
26 Apr 1920	Kokomo, Howard Co.			Sighting	S. Wilson (NABPP)
9 May 1924	Tremont, Porter Co.			Sighting	Walkinshaw (1983), Bull (1989)
21 May 1943	Kendallville, Noble Co.			Sighting	M. Clay (NABPP)
14 May 1950	Hamilton Co.			Sighting	Marks and Wright (1950)
21 May 1950	Randolph Co.			Sighting	Marks and Wright (1950)
14 May 1978	Eagle Creek Park, Marion Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Starling (1978)
17-18 May 1981	Chesterton, Porter Co.	Female	Residential	Sighting/song photograph	Peterjohn (1981), Brock (1982)
22-23 May 1983	Michigan City Harbor, LaPorte Co.	Male		Sighting/ photograph	Peterjohn (1983), Brock (2003)
5 May 1986	Fish Creek, nw. Franklin Twp., Owen Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Gilderland (1986)
10 May 2003	Indiana Dunes S.P., Porter Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Brock (2003), Hinchman (2003)
14 May 2011	Pine Creek United Methodist Camp, Warren Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Hengeveld et al. (2011), Ulrich (2011a, 2011b), Indiana Audubon Society (2012)

Kentucky (n=5; 4 accepted, 1 not accepted)

4-5 May 1910	Danville, Boyle Co.			Sighting	Robertson (NABPP)
8 May 1918	Bowling Green, Warren Co.			Sighting	G. Wilson (NABPP)
7 May 1920	Bowling Green, Warren Co.			Sighting	Mengel (1965), G. Wilson (NABPP)
19 May 1920 (NABPP)	Bowling Green, Warren Co.			Sighting	Mengel (1965), G. Wilson
15 May 1968	Christian Children's Home, Danville, Boyle Co.	Male		Sighting	Monroe (1994), L. McNeely (pers. comm.)

SPRING AND FALL MIGRATIONS OF KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
Maine (n=1 accepted)					
2 Jun 2008	Kennebunk Plains, Kennebunk, York Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song/ photograph	Persons (2008), Persons and Petrucha (2009)
Manitoba (n=1 not accepted)					
15 May 1998	Delta, Central Plains Region	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Manitoba Avian Research Committee (2003)
Maryland (n=1 not accepted)					
18 May 2005	Bethesda, Montgomery Co.		Residential	Sighting	Barbehenn (2005), Maryland Ornithological Society (2012)
Massachusetts (n=1 accepted)					
26 May 1916	Roslindale, Suffolk Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Sherman (1917)
Michigan (n=52; 50 accepted, 2 not accepted)					
15 May 1875	Scio, Washtenaw Co.	Female		Specimen	Covert (1876, 1881), USNM (2010)
16 May 1879	Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co.	Female		Specimen	Coues (1880), USNM (2010)
11 May 1883	Battle Creek, Calhoun Co.	Male		Specimen	Ridgway (1884), USNM (2010)
21 May 1885	Spectacle Reef Lighthouse (now Poe Reef Light), Mackinac Co.	Male		Specimen	Merriam (1885), Stone (1986)
15 May 1886	Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Co.	Female		Specimen	Van Tyne (1939), UMMZ (database)
18 May 1888 (1983)	Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co.	Male		Specimen	Wood (1951), Walkinshaw
14 May 1902	Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co.	Female		Specimen	Wood (1902), Stone (1986)
6 May 1905	Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Wood (1905)
13 May 1907	Nichols Arboretum, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Tinker (1908), Wood (1951)
16 May 1907	Nichols Arboretum, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Tinker (1908), Wood (1951)
30 May 1907	Hamtramck Twp. (sec. 5), Wayne Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Wood (1908)
10 May 1911	Forest Hill Cemetery, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co.			Sighting	Wood (1951), N. A. Wood (NABPP)
20 May 1912	Detroit, Wayne Co.			Sighting	Butler (NABPP)

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
21 May 1915	Nichols Arboretum, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co.			Sighting	Wood (1951), N. A. Wood (NABPP)
9 May 1916	Nichols Arboretum, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co.	Male		Sighting	Wood (1951), N. A. Wood (NABPP)
21 May 1926	Fish Point, Tuscola Co.	Female	Specimen		Wood (1951), Walkinshaw (1983)
20 May 1928	Detroit, Wayne Co.	Male		Sighting	E. S. Wilson (NABPP)
21 May 1933	Grass Lake, Jackson Co.	Male		Specimen	UMMZ (2013)
22 May 1938	Macatawa Park, near Holland, Ottawa Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Gross (1938), M. E. Gross (NABPP)
22 May 1938	Macatawa Park, near Holland, Ottawa Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Gross (1938)
22 May 1938	Macatawa Park, near Holland, Ottawa Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Gross (1938), M. E. Gross (NABPP)
10 May 1955	Saginaw, Saginaw Co.			Sighting	Black (1955)
11 May 1959	Grand Beach, Berrien Co.			Sighting	Kenaga (1959)
27 May 1960	Grand Beach, Berrien Co.			Sighting/banding	Kenaga (1960)
10 May 1963	Grand Haven, Ottawa Co.			Sighting	Schroeder and DeBlaey (1968)
11 May 1963	Near M-45, Grand Haven, Ottawa Co.			Sighting	Schroeder and DeBlaey (1968)
10 May 1969	Erie State Game Area, Monroe Co.	Male		Sighting	Kelley (1969)
10 May 1969	Erie State Game Area, Monroe Co.	Female		Sighting	Kelley (1969)
15-16 May 1991	Tawas Point S.P., Iosco Co.			Sighting	Powell (1991)
12 May 1994	Rouge River Bird Observatory, Wayne Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Craves (1994)
21 May 1994	Tawas Point S.P., Iosco Co.	Female		Sighting	Weeks (1995)
18 May 1996	Bay City S.P., Bay Co.			Sighting	Reinoehl (1996)
26 May 1997	Bay City S.P., Bay Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Petrucha and Urquhart (2000)
24 May 1997	Ferguson Bayou Trail, Shiawassee N.W.R., Saginaw Co.			Sighting	Granlund (1997)
10 May 1998	Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co.	Male		Sighting/song	Granlund (1998)
17 May 2000	Tawas Point S.P., Iosco Co.			Sighting	Ziarno and Annelin (2000)
23 May 2003	Tawas Point S.P., Iosco Co.			Sighting	Ziarno (2003)

SPRING AND FALL MIGRATIONS OF KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
12 May 2004	3574 Berne Rd., Bayport, Huron Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	T. Beachy (in litt.), Reinoehl (2004)
16 May 2004	Van Buren Park, Wayne Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Powell (2005), D. Powell (in litt.)
21 May 2004	Knight Rd., Hampton Twp., Bay Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Wuepper (2004), M. Willard (in litt.)
11 May 2005	Fenner Nature Center, Ingham Co.	Male	Park	Sighting	McGrath (2005), J. McGrath (in litt.)
17 May 2005	Tawas Point S.P., Iosco Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Putnam (2005)
27 May 2005	Presque Isle Lighthouse, Presque Isle Co.			Sighting	Reinoehl (2005)
11 May 2008	End of Chamberlin Rd., Arcadia Lake outlet, Arcadia, Manistee Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/photograph	C. Freeman (in litt.)
11-13 May 2008	Tawas Point S.P., Iosco Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting/banded	Peters (2007), G. Nelke, J. Stevens (in litt.)
17-18 May 2008	Tawas Point S.P., Iosco Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	G. Nelke, J. Stevens (in litt.), Reinoehl (2008)
20 May 2008	Tawas Point S.P., Iosco Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	G. Nelke, J. Stevens (in litt.), Reinoehl (2008)
22 May 2008	Woldumar Nature Center, Eaton Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	D. McWhirter (in litt.)
15 May 2010	Tawas Point S.P., Iosco Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song/photograph	D. Friedman (in litt.), Reinoehl (2010)
22 May 2010	Tawas Point S.P., Iosco Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	J. Law (in litt.)
23 May 2010	Tawas Point S.P., Iosco Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	J. Law (in litt.)
10 May 2011	Dolf Nature Area, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/photograph	D. Chalfant (in litt.), Reinoehl (2011)

Minnesota (n=10; 2 accepted, 8 not accepted)

13 May 1892	Near Minneapolis, Hennepin Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Specimen	Guilford (1893), Green and Janssen (1975), A. Hertzcl (in litt.)
19 May 1921	Frontenac, Goodhue Co.			Sighting	Roberts (1932), A. Hertzcl (in litt.)
6 May 1943	Stillwater, Washington Co.	Male		Sighting	G. Kutz (NABPP)
6 May 1943	Stillwater, Washington Co.	Female		Sighting	G. Kutz (NABPP)
22 May 1944	Tourist Park, St. Cloud, Streams Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Hiemenz (1965), A. Hertzcl (in litt.)
spring 1951	Como Park, St. Paul, Ramsey Co.	Male		Sighting/song	Stone (1986), A. Hertzcl (in litt.)

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
20 May 1964	Cloquet Forest Research Center, Carlton Co./St. Louis Co.			Sighting	Guillion (1964), A. Hertz (in litt.)
13-16 May 1965	Minneapolis, Hennepin Co.	Male	Residential	Sighting	Galbraith (1965), A. Hertz (in litt.)
22 May 1983	Roberts Sanctuary, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co.			Sighting	Eckert (1983a, 1983b), A. Hertz (in litt.)
24 May 1990	Olson Lake, Washington Co.			Sighting	Eckert (1991), A. Hertz (in litt.)

Missouri (n=1 accepted)

8 May 1885	River des Pires, St. Louis, St. Louis Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Specimen	Widmann (1885)
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New York (n=4; 1 accepted, 3 not accepted)

18 May 1917	Geneva, Ontario Co.			Sighting	O. McCreary (NABPP)
23 May 1917	Wellsville, Allegany Co.			Sighting	M. Brown (NABPP)
31 May 1917	Wellsville, Allegany Co.			Sighting	M. Brown (NABPP)
18 May 2010	Wilson, Niagara Co.	Female	Residential	Sighting	Potter (2010), B. Potter (in litt.)

North Carolina (n=3; 2 accepted, 1 not accepted)

20 May 1995	Milepost 426.15, Blue Ridge Parkway, near Haywood Gap, Jackson Co.	Female	Woodland	Sighting	Cook (2000)
23 Apr 1999	Zebulon, Wake Co.	Male		Sighting/song	Davis (2003a, 2003b), E. Potter (in litt.)
18 May 2003	Zebulon, Wake Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Song only	Davis (2003a, 2003b), E. Potter (in litt.)

Ohio (n=112; 94 accepted, 18 not accepted)

13 May 1851	Rockport, Cuyahoga Co.	Male		Specimen	Baird (1852), Walkinshaw (1983)
May 1860	Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co.			Specimen	Stone (1986)
9 Jun 1860	Near Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co.	Female		Specimen	Purdie (1879), Wheaton (1882)
4 May 1872	Avondale, Hamilton Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Specimen	Butler (1929)
4 May 1872	Avondale, Hamilton Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Butler (1929)
3 May 1878	Rockport, Cuyahoga Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Specimen	Purdie (1879), Wheaton (1879), Wheaton (1882), Jones (1903)
3 May 1878	Rockport, Cuyahoga Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Specimen	Purdie (1879), Wheaton (1879), Wheaton (1882), Jones (1903)

SPRING AND FALL MIGRATIONS OF KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
4 May 1880	Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co.	Female		Specimen	Langdon (1880), USNM (2010)
12 May 1880	Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co.	Male		Specimen	Langdon (1880)
Pre-1891	Springfield, Clark Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Keyser (1891), Dawson (1903)
7-9 May or 9-11 May 1900	Near Oberlin, Lorain Co.	Male	Orchard	Specimen/song	Jones (1900), L. Jones (NABPP)
9 or 11 May 1900	"South Woods" 1 mi. s. of Oberlin, Lorain Co.	Male		Sighting/song	Jones (1900, 1910), L. Jones (NABPP)
9 May 1904	Oak Point, Oberlin, Lorain Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Jones (1904a, 1904b)
13 May 1905	New Paris, Preble Co.			Sighting	Petry (1909)
2 May 1906	"South Woods," Oberlin, Lorain Co.	Male		Sighting/song	Jones (1906a, 1910)
11 May 1906	Seneca Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Henniger (1906)
11 May 1906	Seneca Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Henniger (1906)
5-6 May 1908	Oberlin, Lorain Co.			Sighting	L. Jones (NABPP)
10 May 1908	Oberlin, Lorain Co.			Sighting	L. Jones (NABPP)
12 May 1908	Ellsworth Station, Mahoning Co.			Sighting	H. W. Vickers (NABPP)
14 May 1908	New Bremen, Auglaize Co.			Sighting	Henniger (1908), Henniger and Kuenning (1908)
15 May 1908	Catawba I., Ottawa Co.	Male		Specimen	Campbell (1968)
14 May 1909	Urbana, Champaign Co.	Male		Sighting/song	Petry (1909)
16 May 1909	Catawba Point, Ottawa Co.			Specimen	Henniger (1910)
16 May 1909	Catawba Point, Ottawa Co.	Male		Specimen	Henniger (1910, 1911)
11 May 1916	Oberlin, Lorain Co.			Sighting	H. M. Rice (NABPP)
21 May 1916	Austinburg, Astabula Co.			Sighting	Wharram (1916)
22 May 1916	Oberlin, Lorain Co.			Sighting	H. M. Rice (NABPP)
23 May 1916	Oberlin, Lorain Co.			Sighting	H. M. Rice (NABPP)
21-23 May 1917	Indian Springs, Columbus, Franklin Co.			Sighting	Jones (1917)
30 May 1917	Sandusky, Erie Co.			Sighting	H. Barker (NABPP)
11 May 1920	Sandusky, Erie Co.			Sighting	H. Barker (NABPP)
20 May 1920	Columbus, Franklin Co.			Sighting	Thomas (1926)
17 May 1921	Columbus, Franklin Co.			Sighting	Thomas (1926)
23 May 1924	Columbus, Franklin Co.			Sighting	Thomas (1926)

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
23 May 1924	Columbus, Franklin Co.			Sighting	Thomas (1926)
24 May 1924	Columbus, Franklin Co.			Sighting	Thomas (1926)
2 May 1925	Elyria, Lorain Co.			Sighting	C. F. Ensign (NABPP)
2 May 1925	Elyria, Lorain Co.			Sighting	C. F. Ensign (NABPP)
2 May 1925	Elyria, Lorain Co.			Sighting	C. F. Ensign (NABPP)
2 May 1925	Elyria, Lorain Co.			Sighting	C. F. Ensign (NABPP)
13 May 1927	Columbus, Franklin Co.			Sighting	Wheaton Club (NABPP)
12 May 1929	Litchfield, Medina Co.			Sighting	W. Scudder (NABPP)
18 May 1943	Lakewood, Cuyahoga Co.			Sighting	Williams (1943)
22 May 1952	Pearson Park, Oregon, Lucas Co.			Sighting	Campbell (1968)
24 May 1954	Perry Monument, Put-in-Bay, South Bass I., Ottawa Co.	Female		Specimen	Nolan (1954)
29 May 1955	Near Utica, Licking Co.			Sighting	Nolan (1955)
18 May 1956	Cincinnati, Hamilton Co.	Male		Sighting/song	Nolan (1956)
19 May 1957	Buttonbush Bog, Holden Arboretum, Lake Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Danton (1957)
23 May 1962	Lakeside, Ottawa Co.			Sighting	Campbell (1968)
16 May 1964	Lakeside, Ottawa Co.			Sighting	Peterson (1964)
5-9 May 1966	Greenlawn Cemetery, Franklin Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Billie (1966), Thomson (1966)
12 May 1966	Oak Openings Preserve M.P., Toledo, Lucas Co.			Sighting	Campbell (1968)
21 May 1967	Magee Marsh W.A., Lucas Co.			Sighting	Kress (1968)
19 May 1968	Locust Point, Ottawa Co.			Sighting	Little (1969)
24 May 1974	Magee Marsh W.A., Bird Trail, Lucas Co.			Sighting	Campbell (1987)
16 May 1975	Magee Marsh W.A., Bird Trail, Lucas Co.			Sighting	Campbell (1975)
30 Apr 1975	Tiffen, Seneca Co.			Sighting/ photograph	Kleen (1975)
21 May 1977	Magee Marsh W.A., Bird Trail, Lucas Co.		Lucas Co.	Sighting	Campbell (1977, 1987)
21 May 1977	North Chagrin M.P., Cuyahoga Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Hannikman (1977)

SPRING AND FALL MIGRATIONS OF KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
9 May 1979	Magee Marsh W.A., Bird Trail, Lucas Co.			Sighting	Campbell (1979)
21 May 1980	Magee Marsh W.A., Lucas Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Banding/ photograph	Kleen (1980), M. Shieldcastle (pers. comm.)
11 May 1984	Swan Creek Preserve M.P., Lucas Co.			Sighting	Campbell (1984)
9 May 1987	Magee Marsh W.A., Bird Trail, Lucas Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song/ photograph	Glauser (1987), Peterjohn (1987), Pierce (1987)
15 May 1989	Toledo area, Lucas Co.			Sighting	Campbell (1989)
19 May 1989	Reno Beach, Lucas Co.			Sighting	Anderson and Kemp (1989)
Apr 1990	Toledo area, Lucas Co.			Sighting	Campbell (1990)
18 May 1990	Magee Marsh W.A., Lucas Co.	Male		Sighting	Harlan (1991)
15 May 1994	Chagrin River M.P., Willoughby, Cuyahoga Co.	Female		Sighting	Brock (1994), B. Whan (in litt.)
20 May 1995	Magee Marsh W.A., Bird Trail, Lucas Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Wanders (1995)
20 May 1995	Magee Marsh W.A., Bird Trail, Lucas Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Wanders (1995), Fazio (1996), B. Whan (in litt.)
21-22 May 1995	Magee Marsh W.A., Bird Trail, Lucas Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/ photograph	Brock (1995b), Hoffman (1995), Motts (1995), B. Whan (in litt.)
10 May 1996	Oak Openings M.P., Lucas Co.	Male		Sighting	B. Whan (in litt.)
8-10 May 1997	Magee Marsh W.A., Lucas Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/video	C. Gildersleeve (in litt.)
15 May 1997	Long Point, Kelleys I., Erie Co.	Male		Sighting/song	Fazio (1997), B. Whan (in litt.)
15-17 May 1997	Magee Marsh W.A., e. end of Crane Creek State Beach, Lucas Co.	Male		Sighting/ photograph	Brock (1997b), Fazio (1997)
13 May 2000	Navarre Marsh, Ottawa Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Banding/ photograph	Brock (2000), M. Shieldcastle (in litt.)
17 May 2000	Magee Marsh W.A., Lucas Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	B. Whan (in litt.)
5-6 May 2001	Antwerp, Paulding Co.	Male	Residential	Sighting/song/ video	Brock (2001), Gorney (2001)
17 May 2001	Metzger Marsh W.A., Lucas Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	B. Bowman (in litt.)
21 May 2001	Oak Openings Preserve M.P., Toledo, Lucas Co.	Male	Park	Sighting/song	E. Szuch (in litt.)
6 May 2002	Metzger Marsh W.A., Lucas Co.			Sighting	McCormac (2002), B. Whan (in litt.)
10 May 2002	Cedar Point, Erie Co.			Sighting	B. Whan (in litt.)

SPRING AND FALL MIGRATIONS OF KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
14 May 2002	Kelleys I., Erie Co.			Sighting/ photograph	McCormac (2002), B. Whan (in litt.)
16 May 2002	Cuyahoga Co.			Sighting	B. Whan (in litt.)
8 May 2004	s. of Londonville, Knox Co.	Male	Residential	Sighting/song	Hochstetler & Hochstetler (2004)
9 May 2004	Huron River Greenway, Erie Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Phillips (2004), B. Phillips (in litt.)
16 May 2004	nw. corner of Gordon Park, Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co.	Male	Park	Sighting/song	Nicholls (2004), R. Nicholls (in litt.)
30 Apr 2005	Near Gemmer, Adams Co.	Male	Residential/ Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	M. Zloba (in litt.)
16 May 2005	Metzger Marsh, Lucas Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Edwards (2005), D. McDowell (in litt.)
16 May 2005	Magee Marsh W.A., Lucas Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	B. Whan (in litt. to D. Ewert) B. Whan (in litt.)
23-25 May 2005	Magee Marsh W.A., Lucas Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/ photograph	Boone (2005), Fazio and Wiltraut (2005), A. Boone (in litt.)
10 May 2006	Headlands Beach S.P., Fisherman's Trail, Mentor, Lake Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song/ photograph	McCarty (2006), Ohio Ornitholo- gical Society (2006), H. Petruschke (in litt.)
21 May 2006	Magee Marsh W.A., Bird Trail, Lucas Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Harlan (2006), Markey (2006), R. Harlan (in litt.)
22 May 2006	Headlands Beach S.P., Mentor, Lake Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Fazio and Wiltraut (2006), H. Petruschke (in litt.)
24 May 2006	Headlands Beach S.P., Mentor, Lake Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Fazio and Wiltraut (2006), H. Petruschke (in litt.)
16 May 2007	Magee Marsh W.A., Lucas Co.			Sighting	M. Warren (in litt.)
12 May 2009	Appalachia Preserve, Adams Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	B. Whan (in litt.)
15 May 2009	Lou Campbell State Nature Preserve, Lucas Co.			Sighting	J. Habig (in litt.)
16 May 2009	Public Square, Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co.			Specimen	D. Kramer (in litt.)
17-19 May 2009	Magee Marsh W.A., Lucas Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/ photograph	J. Engel, A. Johnson, J. Witter, S. Woods (in litt.)
21 May 2009	Perry, Lake Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song/ photograph	J. Pogacnik (in litt.)
21 May 2009	Magee Marsh W.A., Lucas Co.	Male		Sighting/song	K. Kaufman (in litt.)
21 May 2009	Magee Marsh W.A., Lucas Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	B. Morrison (in litt.)
7 May 2010	Greenlawn Cemetery, Franklin Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Song only	A. Sewell (in litt.)

SPRING AND FALL MIGRATIONS OF KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
14 May 2010	Magee Marsh W.A. (East Beach), Lucas Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song/ photograph	Fazio et al. (2010), K. Kaufman (in litt.)
21 May 2010	Magee Marsh W.A. (East Beach), Lucas Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song/ photograph	Fazio et al. (2010), K. Kaufman, L. Peavler, M. Warren (in litt.)
4-7 May 2011	Columbus, Franklin Co.	Male	Residential	Sighting/song/ photograph/ audiorecorded	V. Ansel, L. Deering, P. Graham, A. Haslagate, P. Hurtado, A. Krava, D. Linzell, Marsh, A. Sewell (in litt.)
6 May 2011	Magee Marsh W.A., Lucas Co.	Male		Song only	E. Kisler (in litt.)
23 May 2011 Cuyahoga Co.	Wendy Park, Cleveland,	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Caldwell (2011)
29 May 2011	Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Song only	J. Brumfield (in litt.)

Ontario (n=100; 74 accepted, 26 not accepted)

16 May 1900	Toronto I., Metropolitan Toronto	Male	Shrub/scrub	Specimen/song	Samuel (1900), Macoun (1904), Hibbard and Aird (1978)
spring 1910	Guelph, Wellington Co.			Specimen	Brewer (1990), W. S. Steele (pers. comm. to A. Wormington)
30 May 1947	Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto			Sighting	Hibbard and Aird (1978)
10 May 1953	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Male		Sighting	Baillie (1953), Kelley (1978)
16-20 May 1958	Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto	Male		Sighting	Gunn (1958), Walkinshaw (1983)
10 May 1959	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Banding/song	Woodford (1959)
24 May 1959	Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto	Male		Sighting	Hibbard and Aird (1978), Walkinshaw (1983), I. Richards (in litt.)
13 May 1961	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Male		Sighting/ photograph	Stirrett (1973), Hibbard and Aird (1978)
13 May 1962	Rockway, Regional Municipality of Niagara	Male		Sighting	A. Wormington (unpubl. data)
19 May 1962	Cranberry Marsh, Whitby, Regional Municipality of Durham			Sighting	Tozer and Richards (1974)
19 May 1962	Point Traverse, Prince Edward Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Sprague (1969)
1 Jun 1963	Cranberry Marsh, Whitby, Regional Municipality of Durham			Sighting	Tozer and Richards (1974)
12 May 1964	Cataraqui Cemetery, Kingston, Frontenac Co.			Sighting	Sprague (1969)
16-21 May 1964	Midhurst, Simcoe Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song/ photograph	Devitt (1967)

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
19 May 1967	Little Lake, Simcoe Co.			Sighting	Devitt (1967)
16 May 1974	Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto			Sighting	I. Richards (in litt.)
16 May 1976	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.			Sighting	Wormington (1985)
24 May 1976	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Male		Sighting	COSEWIC (2008)
14 May 1978	Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma District			Sighting	A. Wormington (in litt.)
14-19 May 1979	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Male		Sighting	Goodwin (1979), I. Richards (in litt.)
14 May 1982	Rondeau P.P., Municipality of Chatham-Kent	Male		Sighting	I. Richards (in litt.)
15 May 1984	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.			Sighting	Wormington (1985)
14 May 1985	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.			Sighting	Wormington (1986)
16 May 1986	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.			Sighting	Wormington (1987)
15 May 1987	Rondeau P.P., Municipality of Chatham-Kent	Male		Sighting	Weir (1987)
26 May 1990	Cabot Head, Bruce Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song/ photograph	James (2000), I. Richards (in litt.)
31 May 1990	Port Hopc, Northumberland Co.	Male		Sighting/song/ photograph	Weir (1990), I. Richards (in litt.)
22 May 1991	Tommy Thompson Park, Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto			Sighting	Bain (1992)
9 May 1993	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Male		Sighting/ photograph	Ridout (1993), I. Richards (in litt.)
12 May 1993	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.			Sighting	Pittaway (1995)
16 May 1993	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.			Sighting	Pittaway (1995)
18 May 1994	Kopegaron Woods C.A., Essex Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Song only	Harrigan (1994)
18 May 1994	Kopegaron Woods C.A., Essex Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Song only	Harrigan (1994)
18-20 May 1994	Rondeau P.P., Municipality of Chatham-Kent			Sighting	I. Richards (in litt.)
14 May 1995	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.			Sighting	Dobos (1996)
21 May 1995	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Female		Sighting	Ridout (1995), I. Richards (in litt.)
26 May 1995	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.			Sighting	Dobos (1996)
10 May 1995	Rondeau P.P., Municipality of Chatham-Kent			Sighting	Ridout (1995)

SPRING AND FALL MIGRATIONS OF KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
10 May 1996	Point Pelee N.P., West Beach,	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/ photograph	Ridout (1996b), Hince (1999), I. Richards (in litt.) Essex Co.
14 May 1996	Stoney Point, Essex Co.	Male		Sighting	I. Richards (in litt.)
16 May 1996	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Female		Sighting	Ridout (1996b), I. Richards (in litt.)
13-14 May 1997	Delaware (Cedarcroft Property), Middlesex Co.	Male		Sighting/ photograph	Ridout (1997), I. Richards (in litt.)
19 May 1997	Rondeau P.P., Municipality of Chatham-Kent			Sighting	Dobos (1998)
21 May 1997	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.			Sighting	Dobos (1998)
24 May 1997	St. Williams Forestry Station, Norfolk Co.	Male		Sighting/song	Ridout (1997), I. Richards (in litt.)
26 May 1997	Stoney Point, Essex Co.			Sighting	T. Beachy (in litt.)
15 May 1998	Point Pelee N.P., West Beach, Essex Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Jaramillo (1998), Ridout (1998), Hince (1999)
21 May 1998	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.			Sighting	I. Richards (in litt.)
21 May 2000	Tobermory (Cape Hurd), Bruce Co.	Male		Sighting/ photograph	I. Richards (in litt.)
13 May 2001	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.			Sighting	Roy (2002)
14 May 2002	Point Pelee N.P., Sleepy Hollow, Essex Co.	Female		Sighting	I. Richards (in litt.)
14 May 2002	Point Pelee N.P., East Beach, Essex Co.			Sighting	I. Richards (in litt.)
19 May 2002	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.			Sighting	I. Richards (in litt.)
24 May 2002	Dyer's Bay, Bruce Co.	Female		Sighting/ photograph	Crins (2003), R. Wentig (in litt. to M. DeCapita)
15 May 2003	Breakwater, Long Point, Norfolk Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Holder (2003); S. Mackenzie, I. Richards (in litt.)
17 May 2003	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Male		Sighting/ photograph	Holder (2003), I. Richards (in litt.)
5 Jun 2003	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Regional Municipality of Niagara			Sighting	Crins (2004)
11 May 2004	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Male		Sighting video	Holder (2004), I. Richards (in litt.)
11 May 2004	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.			Sighting	Crins (2005)
17-19 May 2004	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Male		Sighting/ photograph	Holder (2004), I. Richards (in litt.)

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
9-14 May 2005	Point Pelee N.P., Sanctuary Beach, Essex Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song/ photograph	Holder (2005), K. Tremper (in litt.)
11 May 2005	Ruscom Shores C.A., Essex Co.	Male		Sighting	I. Richards (in litt.)
11 May 2005	Rondeau PP, Municipality of Chatham-Kent			Sighting	Crins (2006)
11-14 May 2005	Point Pelee N.P., NW Beach, Essex Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song/ photograph	Holder (2005), K. Tremper (in litt.)
25-26 May 2005	4 km w. of Port Bruce, Elgin Co.	Male		Sighting/ photograph	I. Richards (in litt.)
8 May 2006	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Male		Song only	Sarkis (2006a)
15 May 2006	Rondeau PP, Municipality of Chatham-Kent			Sighting	Wood (2006)
21 May 2006	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Male		Sighting/song/ photograph	Holder (2006), Sarkis (2006b), I. Richards (in litt.)
14 May 2007	Pelee I., Lighthouse, Essex Co.	Female		Sighting/ photograph	Carter et al. (2007)
14 May 2007	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Female	Open	Sighting photograph	Haselmayer et al. (2007), P. Wood (in litt.)
15 May 2007	Pelee I., Lighthouse, Essex Co.	Male		Sighting	Carter et al. (2007)
18 May 2007	Rondeau PP, Municipality of Chatham-Kent	Male		Sighting/song	LaForest (2007a)
20 May 2007	Rondeau PP, Municipality of Chatham-Kent			Sighting	LaForest (2007b)
21-23 May 2007	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Male		Sighting	Holder (2007)
15 May 2008	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Male		Sighting/ photograph	Holder (2008)
23 May 2008	Mississagi Straits, Manitoulin District			Sighting	Holder (2008)
9 May 2009	Pelee Island, Essex Co.	Male		Sighting/video	Wormington (2009), Cranford (2010)
13 May 2009	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Female		Sighting	Wormington (2009)
15 May 2009	Rondeau PP, Municipality of Chatham-Kent			Sighting	S. LaForest (in litt.)
17 May 2009	Lake Manitou, Manitoulin District			Sighting	Wormington (2009)
20 May 2009	Long Point Bird Observatory, Norfolk Co.			Sighting	P. Aird (in litt.)
30 May 2009	Tommy Thompson Park, Metropolitan Toronto	Female		Sighting	E. McKernan (in litt.)

SPRING AND FALL MIGRATIONS OF KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
7 May 2010	Hillman Marsh C.A., Essex Co.	Male		Sighting/ photograph	S. Rupert (in litt.), A. Wormington (unpubl. data)
14 May 2010	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song/ photograph	S. Rupert (in litt.)
20 May 2010	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.			Sighting	S. Rupert (in litt.)
22-23 May 2010	Point Pelee N.P., West Beach, Essex Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/ photograph	S. Rupert, N. Masse (in litt.)
29 May 2010	Courtright Ridge (Breakwater Banding Station), Long Point, Norfolk Co.	Female	Park	Sighting	D. Hussell (in litt.)
2 May 2011	Rondeau P.P., South Point Trail, Municipality of Chatham-Kent	Male		Sighting/ photograph	Wormington (2011)
6 May 2011	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/ photograph	J. Alvo, B. Di Lablo, S. Rupert (in litt.)
8 May 2011	Point Pelee N.P., West Beach, Essex Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/ photograph	S. Rupert (in litt.)
10 May 2011	Pelee I., tip of Fish Point, Essex Co.	Male		Sighting	K. Burrell (in litt.)
10 May 2011	Point Pelee N.P., White Pine, Essex Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	S. Rupert (in litt.)
10 May 2011	Point Pelee N.P., The Dunes to Sleepy Hollow, Essex Co.			Sighting	Wormington (2012)
11 May 2011	Long Point P.P., Norfolk Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song/ photograph	A. Timpf (in litt.)
11 May 2011	Concession Rd. E, Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	S. Rupert (in litt.)
13 May 2011	Point Pelee N.P., Pioneer Beach, Essex Co.			Sighting/ photograph	Wormington (2012), M. Tate (in litt.)
13 May 2011	Hillman Marsh C.A., Essex Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	S. Rupert (in litt.)
15 May 2011	Point Pelee N.P., Tilden Woods Trail, Essex Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	S. Rupert (in litt.)
19 May 2011	Point Pelee N.P., Pioneer Picnic Area, Essex Co.			Sighting	Wormington (2012)
23 May 2011	Point Pelee N.P., N. of Sanctuary Parking lot, Essex Co.	Male		Sighting/song	S. Rupert (in litt.)

Pennsylvania (n=9, 6 accepted, 3 not accepted)

16 May 1914	Kennett Square, Chester Co.			Sighting	Thomas (NABPP)
23 May 1981	Allegheny Co.			Sighting	Hall (1981)

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
14 May 1994	Little Cove, Warren Twp., Franklin Co.	Male		Sighting/song recorded	Pulcinella (1994)
14 May 1997	Gull Point Trail, Presque Isle S.P., Erie Co.	Male		Sighting/song	Hall (1997), Machesney (1997), Seipler (1997), McWilliams and Brauning (2000)
15 May 1997	Cranberry Twp., Butler Co.			Sighting	Hall (1997)
12 May 2001	Piney Tract, Clarion Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Fedak et al. (2001)
10 May 2003	Presque Isle S.P., Erie Co.			Sighting	Seipler (2003)
18 May 2003	State Game Lands 273, Brush Valley Twp., Indiana Co.	Male	Woodland	Sighting/song	Higbee (2003), Taylor (2003)
16 May 2010	Near Ohiopyle, Stewart Twp., Fayette Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Kruger (2010)

South Carolina (n=8; 7 accepted, 1 not accepted)

27 Apr 1886	St. Helena I., Beaufort Co.	Male		Specimen	Hoxie (1886)
3 May 1886	St. Helena I. (near center of island), Beaufort Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Hoxie (1886)
3 May 1886	St. Helena I. (near center of island), Beaufort Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Hoxie (1886)
3 May 1886	St. Helena I. (near center of island), Beaufort Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Hoxie (1886)
5 May 1925	Irene Mills Park, Gaffney, Cherokee Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Jenness (1925)
5 May 1925	Irene Mills Park, Gaffney, Cherokee Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Jenness (1925)
1 May 1990	Near Lugoff, Kershaw Co.	Male		Sighting/song	LeGrand (1991)
pre-2002	Mayesville, Sumter Co.	Male		Song only	Davis (2002b)

Tennessee (n=1 accepted)

12 May 1997	Eastern State W.M.A., Knox Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song/banded	Skelton and Kays (1997)
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Virginia (n=8; 6 accepted, 2 not accepted)

6 May 1917	Salem, Roanoke Co.			Sighting	S. L. Powell (NABPP)
May 1931	Bristol vicinity, Virginia,			Sighting	Murray (1931)
16 May 1992	Near Lewis Mountain, Shenandoah N.P., Greene Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Dowsett-Lemaire and Dowsett (1992)

SPRING AND FALL MIGRATIONS OF KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
7 & 9 May 1994	Wise Reservoir, Wise Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song audiorecorded	Hall (1994), Peake (1994), Peake (2001)
10 May 1995	Wise Reservoir, Wise Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Peake (2001)
8 May 2000	Wise Reservoir, Wise Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Peake (2001), Heath (2002)
8 May 2000	Wise Reservoir, Wise Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Song only	Peake (2001), Heath (2002)
11 May 2000	Wise Reservoir, Wise Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Peake (2001), Heath (2002)

West Virginia (n=4 accepted)

19 May 1937	Near Cheat Lake, Cooper's Rock S.P., Monongalia Co.			Sighting	Brooks and Boggs (1937)
16 May 1943	Suncrest Park area, w. of Morgantown, Monongalia Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Boggs (1944)
16 May 1954	Morgantown, Monongalia Co.			Sighting	Hall (1983a)
17 May 1983	Near Boaz, Wood Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Collett (1983), Hall (1983b)

Wisconsin (n=12; 10 accepted, 2 not accepted)

20 May 1852	Racine, Racine Co.			Sighting	Hoy (1852)
24 May 1893	Near Lake Koshkonong, Jefferson Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/ capture	Kumlin and Hollister (1951)
19 May 1917	Madison, Dane Co.	Female		Sighting	Taylor (1917)
19 May 1941	Appleton, Outagamie Co.			Sighting	Barger (1941)
23 May 1946	Near Rhinelander, Oneida Co.	Male		Sighting	Robbins (1947), Vanderschlaegen (1981)
20 May 1956	ne. Green Bay, near Fairland, Door Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting/filmed	Hussong (1956)
25-26 May 1967	Green Bay, Door Co.	Male	Residential	Sighting	Columban (1968)
21 May 1971	Redgranite, Washara Co.			Sighting	Greenman (1972)
14 May 1983	Milwaukee County Zoo			Sighting	Powell (1983)
31 May 2003	Vilas Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Frank (2004a)
8 May 2004	Barron Co.	Male		Sighting	Frank (2004b), Granlund (2004)
8 May 2007	Warnimont Park, Warnimot State Natural Area, Milwaukee Co.			Sighting	K. Grveles (in litt.)

Appendix 2

Records of fall migrant Kirtland's Warblers, arranged chronologically by state and province with location data and sources, and, if known, the sex and habitat. The record's relevant supporting elements are noted under Type: specimen; sighting; song; photograph; videotape; film; audiorecorded (voice recording). In the case of reports of multiple birds in one site on the same day, data are repeated for each bird.

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
Alabama (n=1 report accepted)					
5 Oct 1966	Jacksonville, Calhoun Co.			Sighting	James (1968)
Arkansas (n=4 accepted)					
23 Sep 1939	Arkansas Co.			Sighting	Baerg (1951)
24 Sep 1939	Arkansas Co.			Sighting	Baerg (1951)
28 Sep 1939	Arkansas Co.			Sighting	Baerg (1951)
11 Sep 1972	Harrisburg, Poinsett Co.			Sighting	Clench (1973)
District of Columbia (n=1 not accepted)					
30 Sep 1979	Anacostia, Bolling A.F.B.			Sighting	Abbott (1979), Scott (1980)
Florida (n=19; 17 accepted, 2 not accepted)					
11 Oct 1915	Chokoloskee, Collier Co.			Sighting	Ellis (1915)
25 Oct 1915	Princeton, Dade Co.			Sighting	Howell (1932), Stevenson and Anderson (1994)
1 Nov 1918	Fort Pierce, St. Lucie Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Schroder (1923)
9 Sep 1919	East Goose Creek, Walkulla Co., 20 mi. w. of St. Marks			Sighting	Mayfield (1960)
13 Oct 1935	Near Salt Run, Anastasia I., St. Johns Co.			Specimen	Mason (1960)
1 Oct 1946	Bay Co.			Sighting	Stevenson and Anderson (1994)
26 Nov 1953	n. edge of Pensacola, Escambia Co.			Sighting	Weston (1965)
21 Sep 1958	Miami, Dade Co.			Sighting	Stevenson (1959)
2-3 Nov 1961	West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co.			Sighting	Stevenson (1962)
1 Oct 1976	Picnic area, Oscar Scherer S.P., Osprey, Sarasota Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	K. Alvarez (in litt. to A. Shapiro)
27 Oct 1978	Jonathan Dickenson S.P., Martin Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Edscorn (1979)

SPRING AND FALL MIGRATIONS OF KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
1 Aug 1981	Lower Saddlebunch Keys, Monroe Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Barron (1981), Bauman (1981) Atherton and Atherton (1982)
20 Oct 1997	3 mi. s. of Sebastian Inlet, n. end Jungle Trail and Hwy. A1A,		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Wagner (1997), Warner (1998) Wabasso, Indian River Co.
17 Oct 1999	Smyrna Dunes Park, Volusia Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/ photograph	Rademaker and Rademaker Bowman (2000), Pranty (2000)
25 Oct 1999	Near Kissimmee, Orange Co.			Sighting	Bowman (2004)
17 Oct 2003	n. Pensacola, Escambia Co.			Sighting	Duncan and Duncan (2004)
29 Oct 2006	Lake Kissimmee S.P., Polk Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Atherton (2006), Kratter (2007) L. Erickson (in litt.)
11 Oct 2007	117 Pinion Circle, Ormond Beach, Volusia Co.	Female	Residential	Sighting	M. Wilson (in litt.)
20-21 Oct 2011	Richardson Historic Park and Nature Preserve, Broward Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting/ photograph/ video	P. Bithorn, J. Boyd, J. Curlew, J. Daly, R. Titus, and J. Wilcox (in litt.)

Georgia (n=6; 4 accepted, 2 not accepted)

27 Aug 1909	Savannah, Chatham Co.			Sighting	Burleigh (1958)
19 Sep 1959	St. Simons I., Glynn Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Cypert (1959)
17 Oct 1975	Jekyll I., Glynn Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Paget (1983)
7 Sep 1981	Wayne Poultry Company, Pendergrass, Jackson Co.			Sighting	Paget (1983)
15 Oct 1986	Cumberland I., Camden Co.			Sighting	Beaton et al. (2003)
5 Oct 1990	Near Blairsville, Union Co.			Sighting	Hall (1991)

Illinois (n=8; 7 accepted, 1 not accepted)

2 Sep 1948	Loves Park, Winnebago Co.	Male		Sighting	Smith and Parmalee (1955), Kassebaum (2006)
2 Sep 1948	Loves Park, Winnebago Co.	Male		Sighting	Smith and Parmalee (1955), Kassebaum (2006)
4-5 Sep 1966	Skokie Lagoons Forest Preserve, Cook Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	J. Sanders (in litt.)
26 Sep 1978	Lincoln Park, Chicago, Cook Co.			Sighting	Kleen (1979)
21 Sep 1988	Olive Park, Cook Co.			Sighting	Kassebaum (2006)
9 Oct 1992	Chautauqua N.W.R., Mason Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Brock (1993), Richmond (1993), K. Richmond (in litt.)

SPRING AND FALL MIGRATIONS OF KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
13-15 Sep 1996	"Magic Hedge," n. of e. Montrose Harbor, Montrose, Cook Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/ photograph/ banded	Brock (1977a), Serafin (1997), Johnson et al. (1998), W. Serafin (in litt.)
6-7 Sep 2005	Chautauqua N.W.R., Mason Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	S. Bailey, R. Randall, and Richmond (in litt.)
Indiana (n=3; 2 accepted, 1 not accepted)					
24 Sep 1994	Whiting Park, Whiting, Lake Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/ banded	Brock (1995a)
12 Sep 2000	Inland Marsh Trail, Indiana Dunes National Lake Shore, Porter Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Partain (2000)
25 Sep 2006	Near jct. of 100 N and 1000 E, in Benton Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/ banded	J. Vonderwell (in litt. to D. Ewert)
Kentucky (n=6; 1 accepted, 5 not accepted)					
14 Sep 1909	Danville, Boyle Co.			Sighting	Robertson (NABPP)
3 Sep 1911	Danville, Boyle Co.			Sighting	Robertson (NABPP)
16 Sep 1911	Danville, Boyle Co.			Sighting	Robertson (NABPP)
23 Sep 1911	Danville, Boyle Co.			Sighting	Robertson (NABPP)
5 Oct 1912	Versailles, Boyle Co.			Sighting	Brodhead (NABPP)
28 Sep 1918	Bowling Green, Warren Co.			Sighting	Mengel (1965), G. Wilson (NABPP)
Louisiana (n=1 not accepted)					
21 Sep 1977	Slidell, St. Tammany Parrish			Sighting	Schulenberg (1986), D. Dittmann (in litt.)
Manitoba (n=1 not accepted)					
3 Aug 1921	Lake Winnipegosis			Sighting	Taverner (1921)
Maryland (n=2 accepted)					
27 Sep 1976	Beltsville, Prince George Co.		Residential	Sighting	Maryland Ornithological Society (2012)
2 Oct 1976	Edgewater, Anne Arundel Co.		Residential	Sighting	Robbins and Bystrak (1977)
Michigan (n=11; 7 accepted, 4 not accepted)					
28 Sep 1919	7 mi. s. of Houghton Lake Village, Roscommon Co.	Male		Specimen	Wood (1951), UMMZ (2013)

SPRING AND FALL MIGRATIONS OF KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
20 Sep 1931	Detroit, Wayne Co.			Sighting	R. Beebe (NABPP)
31 Aug 1945	Imlay City, Lapeer Co.			Sighting	Wallace (1946), Anonymous (1954)
29 Sep 1951	Muskegon, Muskegon Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Whelan (1952)
17 Aug 1963	Near Grand Haven, Ottawa Co.			Sighting	Schroeder and DeBlaey (1968)
24 Sep 1965	Cranbrook Institute, Bloomfield Hills, Oakland Co.	Male		Banding/ photograph	Nickell (1965)
7 Aug 1973	Davisburg, Oakland Co.			Sighting	Kelley (1974)
1 Sep 1991	Casco Twp., St. Clair Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	R. Emmons (in litt.)
5 Sep 1993	Casco Twp., St. Clair Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	R. Emmons (in litt.)
20 Sep 1997	Sarett Nature Center, Berrien Co.			Sighting	Miller (1997)
3 Aug 2008	Harrisville S.P., Alcona Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	P. Davica (in litt.)

Minnesota (n=3; 1 accepted, 2 not accepted)

27 Aug 1925	Preston, Fillmore Co.			Sighting	Roberts (1932), A. Hertzell (in litt.)
9 Sep 1982	Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Dakota Co.			Sighting	Eckert (1983b), A. Hertzell (in litt.)
2 Aug 1990	Woodbury, Washington Co.			Sighting	Eckert (1991), A. Hertzell (in litt.)

Missouri (n=3; 1 accepted, 2 not accepted)

25 Sep 1931	Fayette, Howard Co.	Male		Sighting	H. L. Blakey (NABPP)
25 Sep 1931	Fayette, Howard Co.	Female		Sighting	H. L. Blakey (NABPP)
3 Sep 1950	Busch W.A., St. Charles Co.		Park	Sighting	Robbins and Easterla (1992) [Clench (1973) gives Weldon Springs]

North Carolina (n=9 accepted)

2 Sep 1936	Rocky Mount, Edgecombe Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Craighill (1942), Potter and Radovsky (1992)
22 Sep 1938	Rocky Mount, Edgecombe Co.			Sighting	Craighill (1942)
23 Sep 1941	Rocky Mount, Edgecombe Co.			Sighting	Craighill (1942)
29 Aug 1982	Allison's Woods, 10 mi. n. of Statesville, Iredell Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	LeGrand (1987), Weisbecker (1987)
28 Sep 1991	Pony Pens, Ocracoke I., Hyde Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	North Carolina Bird Records Committee (1992), Potter and Radovsky (1992)

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
23-24 Sep 1995	Mahogany Rock Overlook, milepost 235 Blue Ridge Parkway, near Elkin, Alleghany Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Cook (2000)
1 Oct 2008	Hospital Fields, Transylvania Co.		Park/shrub/ scrub	Sighting	N. Siebenheller (in litt.)
27 Sep 2010	Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge, Huntersville, Mecklenburg Co.			Sighting/ photograph	Metcalf (2010), Blankenship (2011)
4 Oct 2010	Collettsville, Caldwell Co.	Male	Residential	Specimen/ banded	S. Houston (in litt. to D. Ewert)

Ohio (n=27 accepted)

14 Oct 1886	Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co.			Specimen	Jones (1906b)
28 Aug 1902	Ironton, Lorain Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Jones (1902), Dawson (1903)
28 Aug 1902	Ironton, Lorain Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/song	Jones (1902), Dawson (1903)
11 Sep 1925	Alum Creek, Columbus, Franklin Co.			Sighting	Thomas (1926)
Sep 1928	Buckeye Lake, Fairfield/Perry Cos.			Sighting	Walkinshaw (1983)
22 Sep 1929	Holland sand pit, Springfield Twp., Lucas Co.			Sighting	Campbell (1940)
7 Oct. 1934	Near Hilliard Bridge, n. end Rocky River M.P., Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	McQuown (1944)
7 Oct 1934	Hilliard Bridge, n. end Rocky River M.P., Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	McQuown (1944)
2 Sep 1935	Hilliard Bridge, n. end Rocky River M.P., Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	McQuown (1944)
2 Sep 1939	Canton, Stark Co.			Sighting	Clench (1973), B. Whan (in litt.)
9 Sep 1939	Canton, Stark Co.			Sighting	Clench (1973), B. Whan (in litt.)
8 Sep 1940	n. end Rocky River M.P., Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	McQuown (1944)
5 Oct 1941	n. end Rocky River M.P., Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	McQuown (1944)
5 Oct 1941	n. end Rocky River M.P., Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co.			Sighting	McQuown (1944)
26 Sep 1943	n. end Rocky River M.P., Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	McQuown (1944)
8 Sep 1946	Near Hillard Bridge, Rocky River M.P., Cuyahoga Co.			Sighting	Williams (1946)

SPRING AND FALL MIGRATIONS OF KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
8 Sep 1946	Near Hillard Bridge, Rocky River M.P., Cuyahoga Co.			Sighting	Williams (1946)
3 Sep 1962	Dillon Dam, Zanesville, Muskingum Co.			Sighting	Clench (1973)
28 Sep 1969	Bowling Green, Wood Co.			Sighting	Clench (1973)
25 Oct 1969	Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co.			Sighting	Clench (1973)
27 Sep 1975	Westwood, Cincinnati, Hamilton Co.	Male	Residential	Specimen	Kleen (1976), Walkinshaw (1983), J. MacKnight (in litt.)
12 Sep 1980	Hervica 4-H Camp, 4 mi. s. of Waterford, Washington Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Barnhart (1980)
17 Sep 1989	Dublin, Franklin Co.			Sighting	B. Whan (in litt.)
21 Sep 1995	Antwerp, Paulding Co.	Male	Residential	Sighting/banded	Dunakin (1996)
25 Sep 2004	Gildersleeve Mountain, Kirtland, Lake Co.	Female	Residential	Sighting	Petruschke (2004), H. Petruschke (in litt.)
3 Oct 2007	Wooster, Wayne Co.		Residential	Sighting	G. Hostetler (in litt.)
18 Sep 2009	East Harbor S.P., Ottawa Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting/photograph	B. Master, J. McCormack (in litt.)

Ontario (n=10; 7 accepted, 3 not accepted)

2 Oct 1915	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.	Male		Specimen	Harrington (1939), Hibbard and Aird (1978)
31 Aug 1941	Long Point, Norfolk Co.			Sighting	Walkinshaw (1983)
14 Sep 1948	Pickering, Regional Municipality of Durham			Sighting	Walkinshaw (1983)
1-2 Sep 1969	Dundas Marsh, City of Hamilton			Sighting	Curry (2006)
9 Sep 1981	Morton, Leeds and Greenville Co.	Male		Sighting	Weir (2008)
14 Aug 1988	Minaki Lodge, Minaki, Kenora District			Sighting	Kirkham (1988), I. Richards (in litt.)
19 Aug 1993	Balsam Lake, Campsite #116, Killarney P.P., Sudbury District	Male		Sighting/song	P. Aird (in litt.)
4 Sep 1995	Long Point P.P. (Old Cut), Norfolk Co.			Sighting	Ridout (1996a), I. Richards (in litt.)
2 Sep 2001	Point Pelee N.P., Essex Co.			Sighting	Roy (2002)
29 Aug 2002	Cobourg, Northumberland Co.		Residential	Sighting	Bain (2002), Bain (2003), I. Richards (in litt.)

SPRING AND FALL MIGRATIONS OF KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
Pennsylvania (n=8; 6 accepted, 2 not accepted)					
27 Sep 1964	Lewisville, Chester Co.			Sighting	Clench (1973)
21 Sep–2 Oct 1971	Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector, Westmoreland Co.		Shrub/scrub	Banding/ photograph	Clench (1973)
26 Sep 1972	Wellersburg, Somerset Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	McKenzie (1973)
21–22 Sep 1974	Somerset Co.			Sighting	Hall (1975)
8 Oct 1988	Wrightville, York Co.			Sighting	Hess and Pulcinella (2000)
5 Sep 1996	Engleman's Park, Berks Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Knight (1996)
26 Aug 2000	S. of Easton, Williams Twp., Northampton Co.	Male	Residential	Sighting	Koch (2000a, 2000b)
2–3 Sep 2003	Koch Farm, Easton, Northampton Co.			Sighting	Hoffman (2003)
Québec (n=1 accepted)					
8 Aug 1977	Montréal			Sighting	Hibbard and Aird (1978)
South Carolina (n=10; 8 accepted, 2 not accepted)					
9 Aug 1886	Frogtown, Beaufort Co.			Sighting	W. J. Hoxie (NABPP)
11 Oct 1888	Chester, Chester Co.		Shrub/scrub	Specimen	Loomis (1889)
29 Oct 1903	Near Mt. Pleasant, Charleston Co.	Male		Specimen	Wayne (1904)
4 Oct 1910	Oakland Plantation, Christ Church Parish, Charleston Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Wayne (1911)
14 Oct 1949	Eastover, Richland Co.	Male	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Faver (1949)
1 Sep 1951	Eastover, Richland Co.		Residential	Sighting	Faver (1951)
5 Oct 1960	Aiken, Aiken Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Hatcher (1960)
22 Sep 1967	Eastover, Richland Co.		Residential	Sighting	Faver (1967)
17 Sep 1986	Simpsonville, Greenville Co.			Sighting	LeGrand (1987)
25 Aug 2001	Mayesville, Sumter Co.	Male		Song only	Davis (2002a, 2002b)
Tennessee (n=3; 1 accepted, 2 not accepted)					
28 Sep 1956	Greeneville, Greene Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Darnell (1956)
1 Oct 1989	Jonesborough, Washington Co.			Sighting	Hall (1990), Knight (1993)
8 Oct 1989	Chattanooga, Hamilton Co.			Sighting	Knight (1993)

SPRING AND FALL MIGRATIONS OF KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

DATE	LOCATION	SEX	HABITAT	TYPE	SOURCE(S)
Virginia (n=11; 4 accepted, 7 not accepted)					
25 Sep 1887	Near Fort Myer, Arlington Co.		Shrub/scrub	Specimen	Smith and Palmer (1888)
2 Oct 1887	Near Fort Myer, Arlington Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Smith and Palmer (1888)
Pre-1931	Bristol, Washington Co.			Specimen	Murray (1931)
1 Sep 1974	s. shore John H. Kerr Reservoir, Mecklenburg Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Potter (1975)
9 Sep 1979	Near Winchester, Frederick Co.	Female	Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Mahool (1979)
24 Sep 1995	Hog Island W.M.A., Surry Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Tekin (1995), Iliff (1996)
30 Sep 1996	Potomac Overlook Regional Park, Arlington Co.		Residential	Sighting	Cordle (1996), Henry (1996)
27-28 Sep 1998	Curles Neck Farm, e. of Richmond, Henrico Co.			Sighting	Iliff (1999)
25 Sep 1999	5 mi. w. of Winchester, Frederick Co.			Sighting	Link (1999)
3 Sep 2001	Compton Mountain, 16 mi. ne. of Grundy, Buchanan Co.		Residential	Sighting	Sattler (2002)
29 Sep 2002	Suburban Fairfax Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	Eccles (2002)
West Virginia (n=2 accepted)					
2 Sep 1994	Snowshoe Ski Area (Silver Creek area), Pocahontas Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	G. Harris (in litt.)
2 Sep 1994	Snowshoe Ski Area (Silver Creek area), Pocahontas Co.		Shrub/scrub	Sighting	G. Harris (in litt.)
Wisconsin (n=3; 2 accepted, 1 not accepted)					
10 Sep 1947	Prairie du Sac, Sauk Co.		Residential	Sighting	Derleth (1947)
5 Oct 1972	Sheboygan Co.			Sighting	Tessen (1973)
8 Oct 2002	Waukesha, Waukesha Co.		Residential	Sighting	Aune (2003), Frank (2003)

Abbreviations

COSEWIC - Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada

M.P. - Metro Park (Ohio)

NABPP - North American Bird Phenological Program, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland

UMMZ - Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

USNM - Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.

Appendix 3

1. Langdon (1880) implies that a male Kirtland's Warbler specimen was taken 4 May 1880 and a female was taken 12 May 1880 at Cincinnati, Ohio. The USNM catalog (2010) indicates the 4 May bird as a female, which would suggest the 12 May bird is a male.
2. Murray (1952) listed a Kirtland's Warbler at Fort Myer, Virginia on 28 September 1887; the correct date is 25 September 1887 (Smith and Palmer 1888).
3. Washburn (1889) reported a female taken in Ann Arbor, Michigan in late April or the first of May 1888. The record was corrected in Wood (1904) as a male taken 18 May 1888.
4. A Kirtland's Warbler reportedly found in Linn County, Iowa (no date given), alleged to be a partially decomposed bird whose remains were not saved (Anderson 1907), is considered to be incorrectly identified (Dinsmore 1984).
5. Graber et al. (1983) list a 3 June 1910 sighting of a Kirtland's Warbler by B. T. Gault. Gault's 1910 unpublished notes list this bird as either a female Kirtland's Warbler or female Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*); the author notes the disadvantage of being unable to collect the bird for identification.
6. The report of a Kirtland's Warbler by Hundley on Grand Bahama 5 August 1964 (Hundley 1967) was questioned by Bond (1968). "Mrs. Hundley states that on several occasions this species was seen to alight on the lower section of a pine trunk and then work its way upward like a Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*), behavior so characteristic of *Dendroica dominica flavescens*, the indigenous yellow-breasted race of the Yellow-throated Warbler, that I am skeptical of this remarkably early sight record of *D. Kirtlandii*" (Bond 1968). Newly elevated to the rank of full species as *Setophaga flavescens* (A.O.U. 2011), Bahama Warbler is probably the source of additional similar misidentifications in the Bahamas (White 2011).
7. A Kirtland's Warbler reportedly seen in September 1967 at Chicago, Illinois by Jeff and Ira Sanders (Fawks 1968) was in fact seen 4-5 September 1966 at Skokie Lagoons Forest Preserve, Illinois (J. Sanders, pers. comm.).
8. Stone (1986) incorrectly listed male Kirtland's Warblers seen and photographed 24 September 1965 at Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pennsylvania, but the correct location is Cranbrook Institute, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

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A Siberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita tristis*) at Gambell, Alaska

PAUL E. LEHMAN • 11192 PORTOBELLO DRIVE • SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92124 • (LEHMAN.PAUL@VERIZON.NET)

KEVIN J. ZIMMER • 1665 GARCIA ROAD • ATASCADERO, CALIFORNIA 93422 • (KJZIMMER@CHARTER.NET)

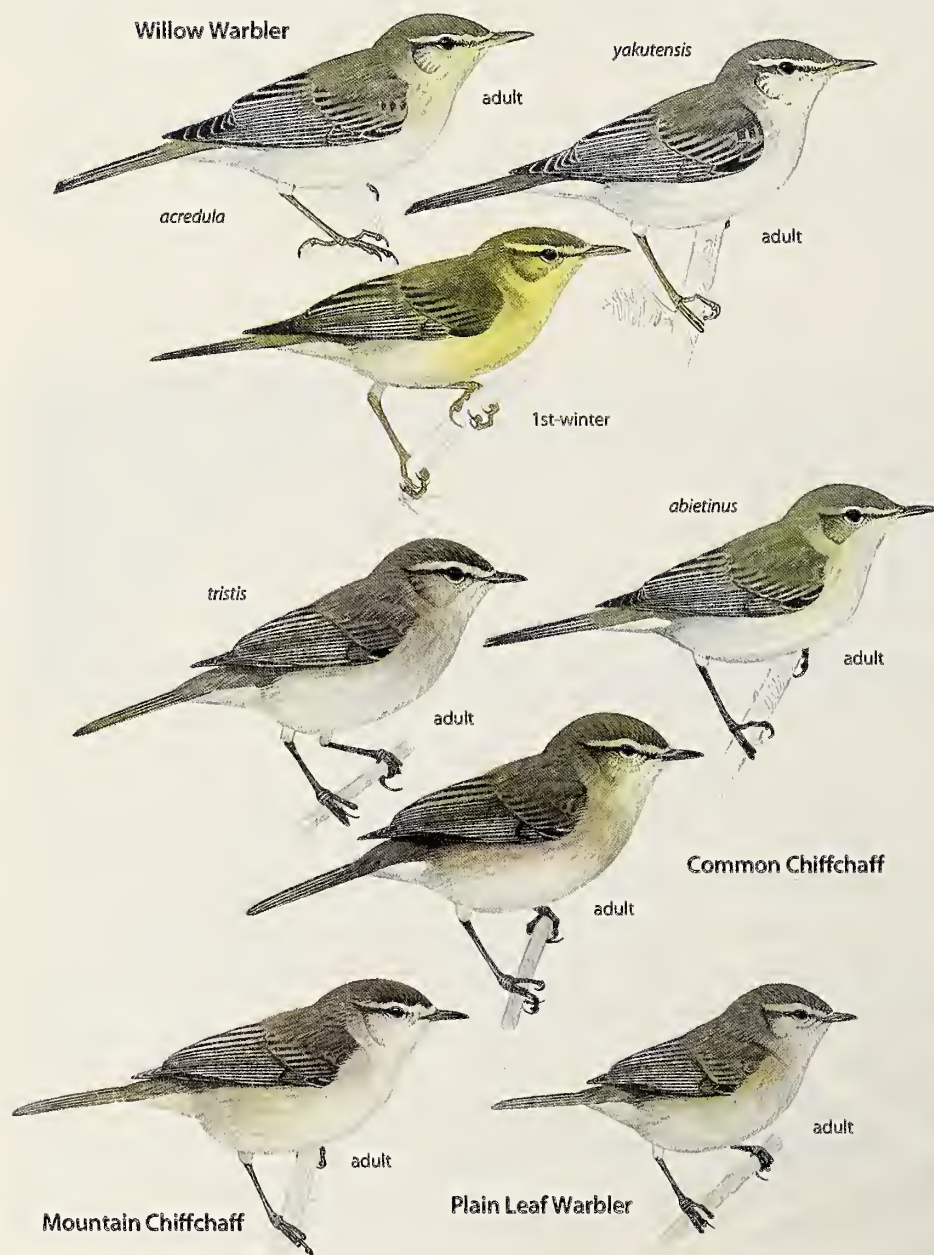
Abstract

This paper documents the occurrence of a *Phylloscopus* warbler at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska on 6-7 June 2012. Research and collaboration with authorities on the genus indicate that the bird was a Chiffchaff of the easternmost subspecies, *P. collybita tristis*, sometimes called Siberian Chiffchaff.

Field encounter

During the mid-afternoon on 6 June 2012, Zimmer and most members of his tour group were conducting a sweep of the "near boneyard" at Gambell, Alaska, when he flushed a small, very dull bird that immediately put down in a patch of grass and wormwood (*Artemisia* sp.) next to one of the nearby village homes. Zimmer gathered his group and announced that he had flushed something of interest, which struck him as "being a *Phylloscopus* warbler, but duller and not as greenish as an Arctic Warbler." When the group attempted to surround the spot where the bird had disappeared, it flushed again, once more offering nothing more than momentary, in-flight views. This time, the bird could not be relocated, but Zimmer radioed other birders at Gambell as to the location and details of the sighting before leading his group in pursuit of a pair of Red-necked Stints (*Calidris ruficollis*) that had just been reported two miles away.

A few hours later, Lehman ended up by chance at the exact spot where Zimmer and group had last flushed their bird and found a very dull *Phylloscopus* warbler. Lehman's



Illustrations by Brian Small from: *Birds of Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan* by Raffael Ayé, Manuel Schweizer, and Tobias Roth, published in 2012 by Christopher Helm, London, and Princeton University Press, Princeton, reproduced with kind permission of Bloomsbury Publishing.

first thought was that it was a Siberian Chiffchaff (*P. collybita tristis*) on the basis of plumage and entirely dark legs and feet, and he thought the primary projection—a crucial distinction from Willow Warbler (*P. trochilus*)—was relatively short compared to the long-winged look of Willow.

Aware that the only other potential North American record of this species was noted at Gambell by Peter Scully from 30 September–3 October 2011, Lehman radioed other birders in the area that he thought the bird a good candidate for North America's first Siberian Chiffchaff, which generated a quick stampede by the other birders present in the village, which included Zimmer and David Wolf's tour group, plus Bob Dittrock and James Huntington. Over the ensuing several hours, we flushed the bird back and forth in the same section of the near boneyard, sometimes getting only brief looks at the bird at rest or in flight, but sometimes getting reasonably satisfactory views of it on the ground.

The *Phylloscopus* was basically gray and off-whitish, with a warm, almost ginger-buff tinge to the lower face (lower auricular) and entirely slate-gray legs and feet (Figures 1–8). Several people managed to study the bird through their scopes, and four people (Kevin Zimmer, Peter Schoenberger, Nan Lloyd, and Clarence Irrigoo) obtained photographs. The bird was last seen at about 1:00 a.m., thus it officially was present on 7 June as well, but it was not re-found later that day. We never heard the bird vocalize.

Although there have now been at least 10 Willow Warblers at Gambell since 2002—presumably all or mostly of the subspecies *yakutensis* based on distributional likelihood and somewhat dull overall plumage—all of these

birds have been in the fall, and all but one had a dull greenish wash to the upperparts and a pale yellow wash to the (lower) throat and upper breast, so they were presumably immatures. The one duller bird—seen in late August 2012—lacked any yellow tones below and was grayer backed, and thus was possibly an adult (cf. Figures 9, 10). All autumn Willows showed darkish (though not blackish or slate-gray—more of a dull brownish) legs but with contrasting paler (dull yellowish) feet. These paler feet have always been fairly easy to see, though they are not as boldly contrasting as in Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*), for example.

Late that night, when we returned inside, we examined the photographs more closely on the cameras and on Lehman's laptop computer, and we discussed the bird's characters and identification. We all agreed that the warm ginger-buff wash on the lower face and the concolorous-with-the-leg dark slate-gray feet suggested the bird was indeed a Siberian Chiffchaff.

Upon looking at the accumulated photographs in detail, we also began to think that the primary extension appeared longer than we had first thought, perhaps more than half the tertial length, though not as long as on obvious Willow Warblers Lehman has studied in the fall (in which primary extension essentially equals the exposed tertial length). Using Lehman's laptop at Gambell to view the photographs, we thought the bird's primary extension appeared intermediate between Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler. While looking at high-resolution images on better monitors, however, the primary projection appears to be about half the tertial length—appropriate for Chiffchaff, and too short for Willow Warbler.

The bird's supercilium also appears to be

fairly bold in most images, as it often did in the field, though in some views, the supercilium did look duller. A bolder supercilium is more typical of Willow Warbler than Chiffchaff. When Lehman posted news of the bird via the internet, he called it a "Willow Warbler/Chiffchaff" and noted that it was probably the former. Initial comments to the posted low-resolution jpegs the next day were mixed, but the most definitive comment came from Peter Kennerley, who thought it a Willow Warbler based on the prominence of the supercilium and perceived primary projection—an appraisal that he would later reverse when the compact disc with a larger number of high-resolution photographs arrived in his mailbox.

For the next several weeks, however, Lehman referred to the bird as a "Willow Warbler," though conflicting comments on the identification continued to arrive from observers who had seen the few low-resolution photographs. In general, the majority opinion favored Chiffchaff. We remained mindful, however, that plumage variation in these two taxa over their ranges is not fully appreciated by many observers, and most birders have experience with these two species only in Europe, whereas the duller eastern taxa—including *abietinus* and *tristis* for Chiffchaff, and *acredula* and *yakutensis* for Willow Warbler—are not as well known. Only recently have some of these taxa been depicted accurately in field guides, notably in *Birds of Central Asia* (Frontispiece), and we had only passing familiarity with articles treating them (e.g., Heard 1989, Clement et al. 1998, Dean and Svensson 2005). Moreover, preliminary evaluations of the Gambell bird were hindered by the apparent variation in the bird's plumage tones in the photographs, a product

Figure 1. The general impression of the *Phylloscopus* warbler at Gambell 6–7 (here 6) June 2012 was of a thin-billed bird, grayish tinged brown above (especially on crown), whitish below, with a moderately prominent supercilium, warmer buff tones in the lower face (auriculars), and uniformly dark legs and feet. While the foot color in particular strongly suggested Siberian Chiffchaff, observers were uncertain about the significance of the supercilium and thus continued to consider Willow Warbler as a possibility. Photograph by Kevin J. Zimmer.

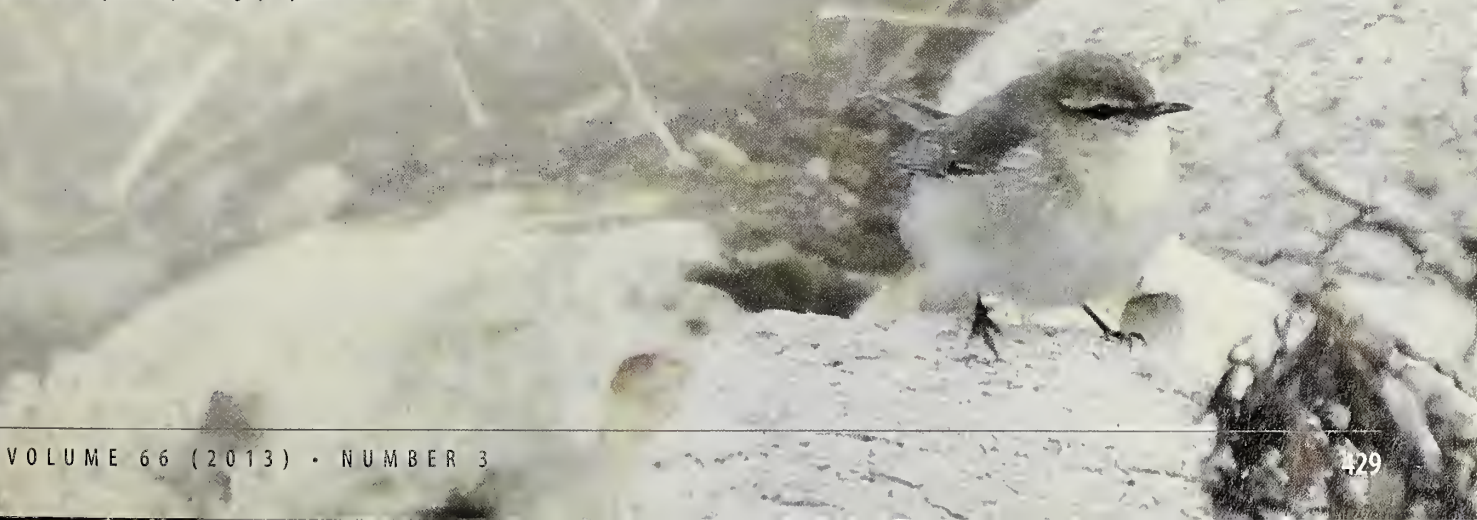




Figure 2. Under all lighting conditions, the *Phylloscopus* warbler at Gambell 6-7 (here 6) June showed very dull grayish and brownish plumage tones, lacking any yellowish or greenish elements, with the only "warmth" visible present in the auriculars, which were a buffy or ginger tone, visible in a minority of photographs but readily apparent in the field most of the time. The prominence of the supercilium also seems to vary in photographs, with some images appearing to show a fairly well-defined, bold supercilium, as this image does—initially a source of some confusion for the observers, who assumed a stronger supercilium would point to Willow Warbler rather than Chiffchaff. However, the shape, extent, and prominence of the supercilium of the Gambell bird, as documented in photographs and as observed in the field, is consistent with the *tristis* subspecies of Chiffchaff, often called Siberian Chiffchaff, as depicted in the most recent authoritative field guides that include Asian taxa of smaller *Phylloscopus* warblers (see Frontispiece). Photograph by Kevin J. Zimmer.



the rather plain 'face' with poorly developed loreal line and supercilium, slightly warmer ear-coverts, and rather delicate bill rule out *yakutensis* Willow [cf. Frontispiece, Figures 9-11]. So it must be a Chiffchaff.

of both lighting conditions (overcast versus sunny, for instance) and technical differences in camera types and photo-processing software among the photographers.

In sum, Chiffchaff was favored by the warm color to the lower face and by the dark gray foot color, Willow Warbler by the prominence of the supercilium shown in most views. But then came the comments from Kennerley, based on the high-resolution photographs, on the bird's primary emargination as well as primary extension, both of which he appraised as being within the range for Chiffchaff but not for Willow Warbler.

Kennerley writes (our comments in brackets):

With so many images this gives a much better overall impression of the bird, which is quite different to that gained from the original three which you sent. Firstly, the bird clearly shows four emarginated primaries (p5-p8 counting from the inner primary, p1) [Figure 8]. [In the Old World, primaries are normally counted from the outermost primary (p1) inwards. In North America, the opposite notation is used, counting from the innermost (p1) outwards to the outermost (p10).] So it cannot be a Willow Warbler. This is also supported by the relatively short primary projection beyond the longest tertial. Also,

However, it is not a typical *tristis*, which would appear browner above and show a sullied rather than clean white breast and throat [cf. Figures 12, 13]. In terms of overall plumage tones, the Gambell bird resembles no *tristis* Chiffchaff that I've seen, which amounts to many hundreds on the wintering grounds in India most winters, plus many in Siberia, Kazakhstan, etc., plus vagrants in Britain and Hong Kong. Those we've caught show brownish upperparts and bronze-green edges to the primaries, which form a greenish panel in the closed wing. The Gambell bird lacks the overall colouration typical of *tristis*, appearing greyish above and white below. Also, the edges to the primaries and secondaries are white to whitish in most images, although a few show just a faint hint of cream-brown smudge forming a 'thumbprint' to the centre of the outer fringes on p1-4. The edges to the primaries of *tristis* are typically dull green. In many photos, even this hint of a thumbprint isn't visible. I am certain that I haven't seen a *tristis* Chiffchaff so devoid of green tones, or so white below. Perhaps easternmost *tristis* lack these colours?

For the sake of completeness, there are two other options to consider and eliminate. Mountain Chiffchaff (*P. sindianus*), which breeds no closer to Alaska than the western Himalayas and winters in the Indian subcontinent, would be a highly unlikely candidate for your bird. Mountain Chiffchaff typically lacks the green and yellow plumage features, appearing warm rusty brown above, and washed fulvous to rufescent brown on the flanks. Also the loreal line is quite thin so the whitish supercilium tends to bulge down in front of the eye. Another species to eliminate

Figures 3, 4 (left, bottom of next page). Field study of the *Phylloscopus* warbler at Gambell 6-7 (here 6) June 2012 consistently indicated a short, even "stubby" primary projection, about half of the visible tertial length, which shows well in photographs and which pointed observers toward identification of the bird as a Chiffchaff. Primary projection in all subspecies of Willow Warbler, including *yakutensis*, is notably longer (see Frontispiece and Figure 10). Photographs by Kevin J. Zimmer.

Figure 5. In the low-angle light of late evening (here just past midnight, in the first minutes of 7 June), the subtleties of the warbler's plumage tones were more readily discerned and photographed. In this light, the color of crown tends more toward brown than gray, the flight feathers show a bronzy tone, and the auriculars show a warm buffy or ginger tone, while the breast and belly have less whitish, more distinctly grayish tones. Photograph by Kevin J. Zimmer.

is Plain Leaf Warbler (*P. neglectus*), which also resembles *tristis*, including blackish legs, but appears more diminutive and with a proportionately slightly shorter tail than *tristis* shows. It is the smallest *Phylloscopus* so would appear rather kinglet-like in size. Like your bird, it lacks green and yellow tones in the plumage. It is resident or a short-distance migrant in the Middle East, with some reaching northwest India in winter. So, again, most unlikely to reach Alaska. Assuming that you are happy to eliminate Mountain Chiffchaff and Plain Leaf Warbler on the features mentioned above, and supported by the geographical improbability of either species reaching Alaska, then I believe you are left with a *tristis* Chiffchaff.

A few images of your bird show the [primary] emarginations quite well. The bird in flight shows it best. It could be argued that this is an effect of motion blur, but I don't think this is the case. One image [Figure 6] also shows it well; you can clearly see the four distinct steps that mark the emarginations crossing the plane of the closed wing and forming a dark diagonal line. The innermost emargination (on p5) is quite clear here, falling several mm short of the feather tip. On Willow Warbler, the innermost emargination (on p6) falls much farther from the feather tip than it does on Chiffchaff. Links to images showing this (albeit on western European birds) are here for Willow (<<http://www.pbase.com/jameskennerley/image/137220735>>) and here (less clearly) for Chiffchaff (<<http://www.pbase.com/jameskennerley/image/133836045>>). It is possible that the wing structure differs slightly between *trochilus* and *yakutensis* Willow Warblers, but this is not documented. As far as is known, adult *yakutensis* in spring does not show a brown tone to the ear-coverts, but as I have previously mentioned, I'm not aware of any photographs of spring adults. There are very few images of spring Willow Warbler from the east Asian part of the range, but this link adds some discussion (<<http://marklewisbirdingblog.blogspot.co.uk/2008/04/more-on-acredula-and-yakutensis-willow.html>>), as does this one (<<http://www.birdsofsaudi Arabia.com/2012/05/acredula-willow-warbler-aiiba-marsh.html>>).



Figure 6. In harsh cross-light, the emarginations of the primaries are clearly visible (also cf. Figures 4, 6-7). Chiffchaff has four emarginated primaries, whereas Willow Warbler has three. In this image, where the four emarginations begin, near the tip of the primaries, the emarginated areas appear darker, their boundary with the marginated (paler) part of the primary feathers following roughly a diagonal line. In this light, subtle differences in plumage tone are erased; the upperparts appear paler gray, the underparts whitish. This image of the Gambell *Phylloscopus* was taken 6 June. Photograph by Clarence Irrigoo.



For those birds observed/photographed away from breeding areas, for which we don't know their geographical origin, the images are useful but not directly relevant to the appearance of true *yakutensis*. If anyone has images of spring Willow Warblers from eastern Siberia, I'd love to see them. What we do know is that the type specimen of *yakutensis* was described from the Verkhoyansk District of Yakutia in eastern Siberia by Ticehurst in July 1935 (1938). Systematic review of the genus *Phylloscopus*. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists Club* 55: 177-178, still by far the best reference to *Phylloscopus* warblers available). At almost the same time, Portenko described the form *expressus* from Anadyrland in November 1935. Ticehurst (1938) recognized *expressus* as being morphologically similar to *yakutensis* and treated it as a junior synonym of *yakutensis*. Ticehurst (1938) describes *yakutensis* in spring as:

"Upper parts grey brown with only a trace of olive green on rump and edges of the wings; under parts dull white stippled with grey on the breast; only yellow is in the under wing. Closely

resembles the brown and white type of *acredula*, but the upper parts are a colder grey brown and there is never any yellow on the underparts; also averages a little longer in wing. Worn birds could not be differentiated. This form is stable over its known range."

Assuming the last statement to be true, then almost all birds breeding in northeastern Siberia should resemble Ticehurst's description of *yakutensis*.

Adult Willow Warbler is one of the very few species to have two complete moults each year (after breeding and again on wintering grounds), while young birds have a complete moult in the wintering areas. So any Willow Warbler arriving in Siberia in spring would have fresh primaries, secondaries, and tail feathers. Vaurie (*Birds of the Palearctic Fauna - Passerines*) also describes *yakutensis* as "grey brown above, dull white below with a tinge of greyish on the breast, not olive and yellowish as in *acredula*, cooler grey above than the brown form of *acredula*." Under *acredula*, Vaurie writes: "intergrades with *yakutensis* in the region of Tomsk according to Johansen (1954)." It follows therefore

that east of Tomsk and the Yenesei River region, Willow Warblers only resemble *yakutensis*.

Ticehurst and Vaurie worked from examination of specimens and published references to establish distributions, not from field experience. I think Ticehurst had access to 31 specimens, so not a huge number but presumably sufficient to give him confidence to draw the conclusions he did, and they have yet to be questioned 70 years on.

Finally, *yakutensis* isn't on the British list. Only *trochilus* and *acredula* have been recorded. Brown-and-white Willow Warblers (presumably *acredula*) are not unusual in Britain; they breed in Scotland and occur regularly on spring passage along the east coast. But these are quite different in appearance to the grey-brown upperparts of true *yakutensis*.

Lars Svensson offers the following comments:

When assessing this record I have concentrated on the photographs of the bird. I am familiar with the many problems brought up by various



Figures 7, 8 (below; left). In this photograph of the Gambell *Phylloscopus* flying away, the four primary emarginations are also clearly visible (cf. Figure 6). Peter Kennerley first noticed and pointed out to the authors the extent of each emargination. In Chiffchaff, the innermost emargination is on p6 [=p5 in Old World notation], falling several millimeters short of the feather tip, as seen here. In Willow Warbler, the innermost emargination is on p5 [=p6 in Old World notation]. Photograph by Peter Schoenberger.





correspondents and would probably agree to most or all of the points raised.

However, the essential is the bird itself. Some of the photographs show undisputed emargination of the outer webs of four primaries, thus on pp3-6 (there is no consensus in the 'Old World' on numbering these from inside out, far from it; I advocate from outside in except in moult studies). The emargination on p6 is shown to be very clear and not just a hint near the tip; it is just as well marked as on the other three primaries with emarginations.

This eliminates Willow Warbler from the equation. Considering the plain plumage pattern, the general colours, the general size and shape, the dark legs, the moderately marked supercilium (rather than long and prominent as in Arctic or Greenish), we are left with Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, and reasonably of subspecies *tristis*. I would unhesitatingly identify the bird as a Chiffchaff. Note that the primary projection in a *tristis* Chiffchaff is about 2/3 of exposed tertials or subtly longer, about as long as on the Alaskan bird. It is not dramatically shorter than in some (mainly female) Willow Warblers, for instance. The primary projection as shown on the Gambell bird presents no real identification problem by being 'too long'.

Is there anything which does not perfectly fit a *tristis* Chiffchaff? Well, I would say that it has a rather strongly patterned 'face' with an almost Willow Warbler-like look.

Figures 9-11. This adult Willow Warbler, presumed to be of subspecies *yakutensis*, was trapped at Ngulia, Kenya 8 December 2012. The absence of yellow tones to the underparts points to it being an adult, but its age was determined by tail wear. Note that this bird, like other taxa of Willow Warbler (and unlike Chiffchaffs), shows three emarginated primaries, p6 through p8 [=p3-5 in Old World notation]; Chiffchaff shows four emarginated primaries. Also, note how far along primary p6 [=p5 in Old World notation] the position of emargination starts—very similar to European Willow Warblers, but very different from Chiffchaffs and from the Gambell *Phylloscopus*. The substantial bill is also typical of Willow Warbler and unlike the Gambell *Phylloscopus*. Photographs by Peter Kennerley.



Both dark eye-stripe and pale area below it are near the extreme of what you see in *tristis*. But such more well-marked birds occur, and this detail is not alarming to me. It is a very pale and bleached bird with off-white underparts, and very little of the for *tristis* typical rusty-buff tinge to ear-coverts and side of neck can be discerned. These pale shades can be true colours, or they have been slightly

exaggerated (washed out) by cameras and computers, but regardless whether such artefacts are involved or not, such pale birds do rarely occur. And there is no other species with plain grey-brown upperparts, off-white underparts, no wing-bar and four emarginated primaries. It is a Chiffchaff.

The last thing to consider is whether the subspecies *abietinus* could be considered.

Apart from being more improbable due to distance from west of Ural Mountains (the nearest population of this race), I would say this generally has a slightly more obvious green tinge to edges of remiges and rectrices, and on rump/uppertail coverts. But the whitish underparts and the strong facial pattern would perhaps be better for *abietinus* than for *tristis*. But on balance I think the bird must be labelled *tristis*.

Mike Crewe likewise comments:

Like you, my first thought was for Siberian Chiffchaff and, after further deliberation, that is where I firmly stayed. As you mention quite rightly in your preliminary notes, primary extension is important and useful in separating Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler, and I see on this bird a primary extension that is, at the very most, only half that of the visible tertial length. Perhaps the most Willow Warbler-like feature of this bird is the rather strong and long supercilium, but this again is well within the normal parameters for Siberian Chiffchaff. Many of the UK birds have much weaker supercilia, more closely resembling the head pattern of western, nominate birds. I have seen a good number of wintering *tristis* in India, and pretty much all of them showed a head pattern similar to your bird. Interestingly, in winter, *tristis* spends a lot of time feeding on the ground or on floating vegetation in wetlands, and this behavior, coupled with the unexpected head pattern, certainly confused me the first time I went there.

I think that other features in favor of Chiffchaff include the rather rotund shape (though of course posture can change), the very dark legs, and the relatively small bill. Of course, if it could be seen, the number of emarginated primaries would be most helpful.

Finally, Kalle Sjölund comments:

My immediate impression is that this bird looks very much like a Siberian Chiffchaff, with its short primary projection, thin black legs, dark bill, and tendency of warmer tone on ear coverts. However, note that I have no experience or closer knowledge of the eastern Willow Warbler races. I have tried to measure the primary projection from the photographs and arrive at a ratio of 54% between this projection and the longest tertial. This would strongly indicate Chiffchaff, as from what I understand *yakutensis* if anything has an even longer primary projection than the nominate race. I do not fully trust my mea-



Figure 12. This adult Siberian Chiffchaff was photographed near Novosibirsk, Russia 27 June 2008. Note the relatively small bill, grayish upperparts, moderately prominent supercilium, and short primary projection compared to Willow Warbler (Figures 9-11). The crown is tinged brown and the auriculars faintly buffy, despite the somewhat worn plumage. Photograph by Peter Kennerley.

surements, but the impression remains. You probably have access to better pictures to assess this in a more reliable way. I still believe the coloration is perfect for a *tristis*, possibly with the exception of the supercilium that appears a little whiter than what would be typical. There is a Swedish photographic database (<<http://www.artportalen.se/birds/>>) where you will find 200+ pictures of *tristis* (sibirisk gransångare) and many Willow Warblers (lövsångare).

Our study of the images of Mountain Chiffchaff, Plain Leaf Warbler, and other taxa mentioned in the reviewers' comments above has led us to exclude them from consideration and to conclude that the *Phylloscopus* we studied and photographed 6-7 June 2011 was a Siberian Chiffchaff. This record is currently under review by the Alaska Checklist Committee.

On 2 October 2011, Peter Scully obtained photographs of a very dull *Phylloscopus* at Gambell that was also likely a Siberian Chiffchaff, but according to a number of reviewers, the quality of photographs do not permit a positive identification (Figure 14).

Acknowledgments

We thank our co-observers of this bird, who all participated in the team effort to study and document it: David Wolf, Bob Dittick, James Huntington, Clarence Irrigoo, Peter Schoenberger, Chris Spagnoli, Merle and Jo Hubbard, June Ketchum, Ron and Pat Brown, Tom Taylor, Susan Fox Rogers, Nan Lloyd, Al Brown, Karen Collins, Linda Gump Mowbray, Tracy Wohl, and Jennifer MacKay. We thank Nigel Redman of Bloomsbury Publishing for permission to reproduce the fine plate from *Birds of Central Asia*. We also wish to express our sincere gratitude to the many commentators who helped us analyze the images, including Lars Svensson, Mike Crewe, Julian Hough, Nick Lethaby, Kalle Sjölund, and especially Peter Kennerley, who also contributed many images of Asian *Phylloscopus* warblers for our consideration.

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- Heard, C. D. R. 1989. Racial identification of wintering chiffchaffs. *Birding World* 2: 60-65. 🌱



Figure 13. This Siberian Chiffchaff was photographed near Irkutsk on the Ohla River, near Lake Baikal, Russia on 21 June 2008. The dark legs and feet are another distinction from Willow Warbler. The grayish tones of this bird more closely resemble the Gambell bird than do the brownish tones of the individual depicted in Figure 12, though lighting and processing of images contribute to perceptions of color, clearly. Photograph by Peter Kennerley.



Figure 14. This *Phylloscopus* warbler was initially found 30 September 2011 at Gambell. It was re-found and photographed (here) in the evening of 2 October; it remained in the area until the next day. Like the bird found 6 June 2012, it had a small bill and short primary projection, suggestive of Chiffchaff, and although several authorities believe this bird was a Siberian Chiffchaff, most commented that the photographs were not of sufficient quality to establish an identification, particularly for a potential first North American record. Photograph by Peter Scully.

For further study:

Images of Mountain Chiffchaff: <<https://picasaweb.google.com/peterkennerley1/LorenziiMountainChiffchaffArmenia?authkey=Gv1sRgCK7tuYmw6eSgLA#5195828499535439970>>

Images of Plain Leaf Warbler: <http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?p=7&Bird_ID=1823&Bird_Family_ID=&pagesize=1>

The Changing Seasons: Movin' up

EDWARD S. BRINKLEY • 124 PEACH STREET • CAPE CHARLES, VIRGINIA 23310 • (THALASSOICA@GMAIL.COM)

The Weather

Recently, I asked a person who bought a “winter home” in coastal Virginia why she had chosen the Chesapeake Bay as a winter haven, to which she replied: “Haven’t you heard? Virginia is The New Georgia!” I was puzzled, picturing Paula Deen and palmettos for a moment, so she elaborated: “With climate change, we snowbirds don’t have to go so far south any more; we can winter in the Mid-Atlantic.”

The point was well taken. Birds seem to be thinking the same thing, after all ... y’all.

Does anyone out there read this Weather section any more? “This season was the warmest on record....” We repeat ourselves here all too often. Most mass media are reporting on the warming planet now, at least, and climate-change deniers are now limited to the lunatic fringe and serious candidates for high political office. Anyone unaware of the situation is simply not reading newspapers or magazines, not paying attention to radio or television broadcasts or Internet—and not having conversations with anyone who does.

Nevertheless, we’ll do our duty here and note that the first three months of 2012 were the warmest January–March period on record for the contiguous United States. March 2012 was the warmest March on record for the United States (Figure 1). Spring (March through May) 2012 was the warmest spring on record for the United States (Figure 2). In fact, according to the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), “Each of the 12 months from June 2011 through May 2012 ranked among the warmest third of their historical distribution for the first time in the 1895–2012 record. The odds of this occurring randomly are 1 in 531,441.”

And how warm was it? In March, more than 15,000 warm temperature records were broken in the United States alone. The NCDC’s monthly summary provides perspective: in the Lower 48 United States, “the average temperature of 51.1° F in March 2012 was 8.6° F above the twentieth-century average for the month of March. Of the more than 1400 months (117+ years) that have passed

since the U.S. climate record began, only one month, January 2006, has seen a larger departure from its average temperature than March 2012.”

Lest you think your Regional Editors are exaggerating.

East of the Rockies, 25 states had their warmest March on record. The month of April was merely the third warmest (3.6° F above average), and May the second warmest (3.3° above), but the season nevertheless came out as the warmest spring on record—some 5.2° F above the average for the twentieth century; *by two full degrees*, this was the warmest spring on record. The stretch from June 2011 through May 2012 period was the warmest twelve-month period of any on record for the contiguous United States, with an average temperature of 56.0° F, about 3.2° F above the long-term average. And when was

the previous record set? During the previous twelve-month period. This recent one was almost half a degree (Fahrenheit) warmer.

We know that warmth in early spring from the Great Plains eastward provides one favorable element for outbreaks of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. March normally averages 80 tornadoes in the United States; March 2012 had 223 tornadoes, according to the Storm Prediction Center (NOAA). The outbreak of 2–3 March in the Southeast killed 40 people and caused \$1.5 billion in damages. We scarcely blink at numbers like these any more.

Canada’s spring season was not nearly so dramatically warm as in the contiguous United States, with well-above-average temperatures (3° C above normal) mostly extending from southern Manitoba to Nova Scotia (Figure 3). The national average temperature

A southern Yukon snowstorm on 16 May 2012 produced a large fallout of migrating Upland Sandpipers, with 101 birds tallied in small flocks around Whitehorse. Setbacks of this sort are not rare in the North, parts of which experienced a relatively cool spring season, especially Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. But most of the continent, from the Rockies eastward, had a record-warm spring, with March precipitation falling as rain rather than snow and numerous record-early local arrivals. Photograph by Cameron Eckert.



for the spring of 2012 was 1.6° C above normal (1961-1990 average), making this spring the ninth warmest on record since nationwide records began, in 1948. The warmest spring was in 2010, which was 4.1° C above normal. Most of Canada experienced above-normal temperatures, but areas of the British Columbia coast, northern Yukon, and western Northwest Territories had temperatures closer to normal (Figure 3; Frontispiece).

Aside from thunderstorm activity, precipitation was less in the news than the warm temperatures in spring 2012. Although the areas impacted by drought conditions decreased a bit from winter, they actually increased in the Lower 48 states compared to the spring of 2011, from 29% to 37%, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Mercifully, some rain fell in the Southern Great Plains, bringing some respite to parched areas of Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. At the end of May, rains from Tropical Storm *Beryl* eased dry conditions across many parts of the Southeast as well. Canada experienced a slightly wetter spring than normal in 2012, with precipitation 3% above average (1961–1990 average). Much of Canada had wetter conditions than normal, with the Prairie Provinces, southern Yukon and Northwest Territories, and northern Ontario at least 40% wetter than normal. Nunavut, southern Ontario, and Atlantic Canada were drier than normal.

Alaska, sea ice, and you

The missing piece of our maps—Alaska—experienced a colder-than-normal spring, and those cool conditions extended into the Pacific Northwest. When the NCDC calculates average values for temperature and precipitation, and departures from average, they do not include data from Alaska or Hawaii. This segregation makes it convenient to look more closely at Alaska on its own. Coming out of an often cold but erratic winter, March in Alaska was the tenth coldest on record. Colder-than-normal temperatures were especially pronounced in the Bering Sea region. St. Paul Island (-6.2° F) and Bethel (-6.0°) displayed the highest negative deviations; these are especially pronounced deviations for a spring month. Several new daily record low temperatures were reported, especially in the Bering Sea region, where readings were regularly colder than those of February 2012. Alaska's Southeast showed the least deviation, with Gulkana at just -1° from average. Spring readings from Alaska's twenty meteorological stations, averaged together, indicate the state-wide deviation was -2.9° .

Just as occurred in Alaska during the winter months, there was a flip-flopping in

March 2012 Statewide Ranks

National Climate Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA

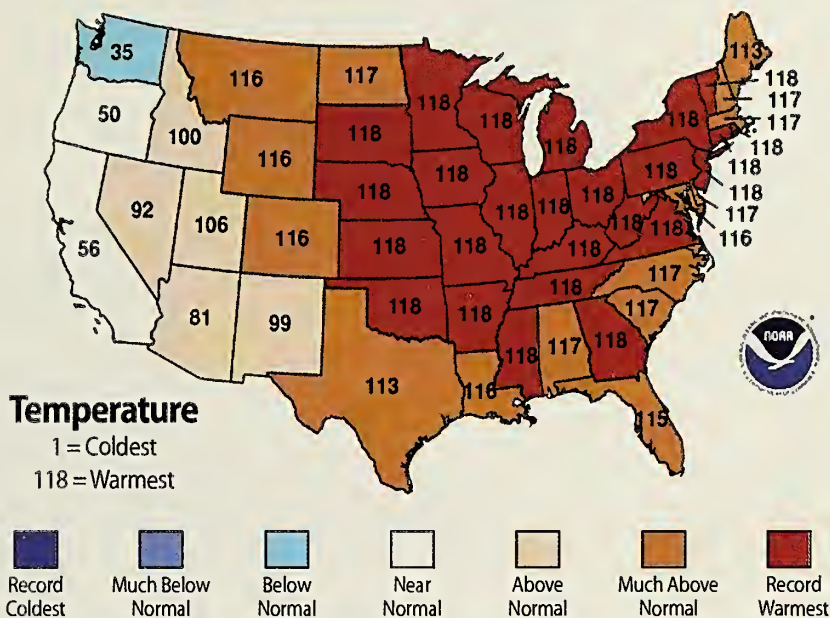


Figure 1. Statewide temperature ranks for March 2012, contiguous United States. The number “118” indicates a state recording its warmest March on record (that is, in 118 years of record keeping). East of the Rocky Mountain states, only Texas failed to have a number from 115 (fourth warmest March) to 118, and Colorado, Wyoming, and eastern Montana also had an exceedingly warm March. *Graphic courtesy of and copyright the National Climatic Data Center/NOAA.*

March-May 2012 Statewide Ranks

National Climate Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA

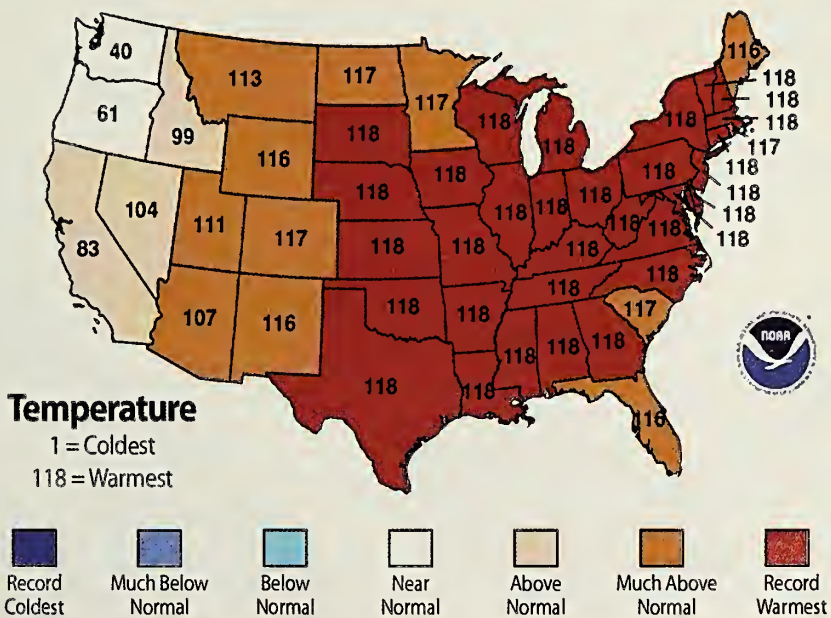


Figure 2. Statewide temperature ranks for spring (March through May) 2012, contiguous United States. Only Oregon and Washington had spring season temperatures near the long-term average, courtesy of the same weather pattern that caused most of the continent to swelter. *Graphic courtesy of and copyright the Notional Climatic Data Center/NOAA.*

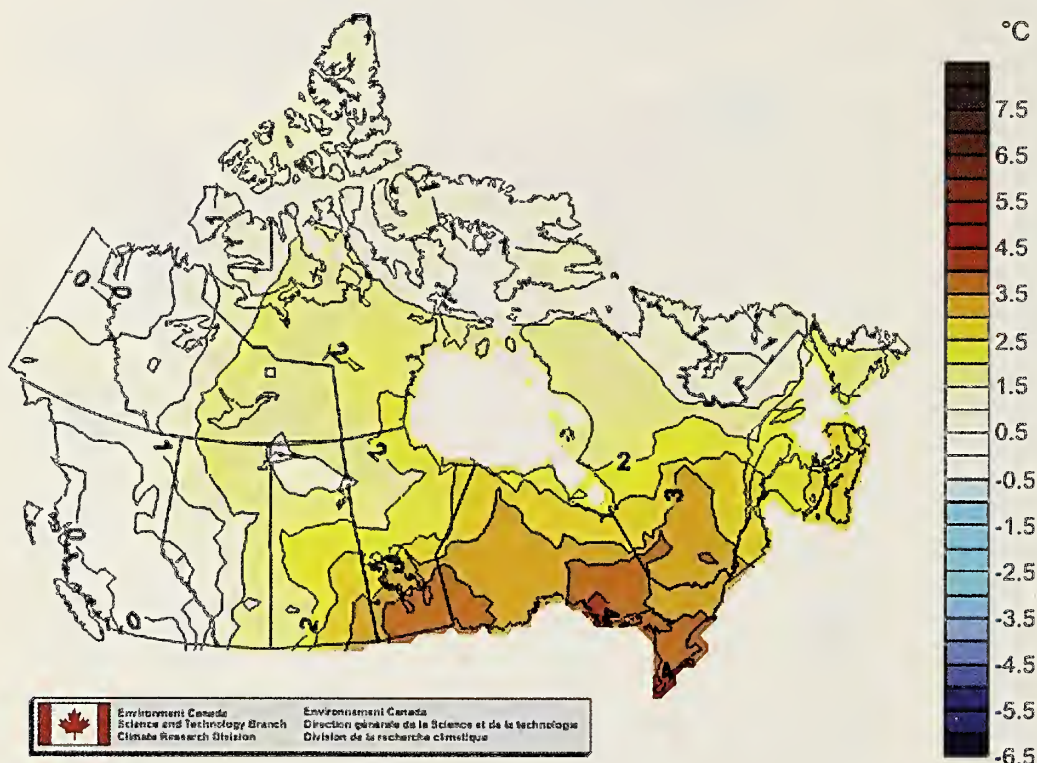


Figure 3. In contrast to the Lower 48 states, much of Canada, especially in the west, experienced spring temperatures "only" about 2° C warmer than usual. The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region had its second-warmest spring on record, 3.5° C above normal, and Atlantic Canada had its fourth warmest, 2.1° C above normal. *Graphic courtesy of and copyright Environment Canada/Environnement Canada.*

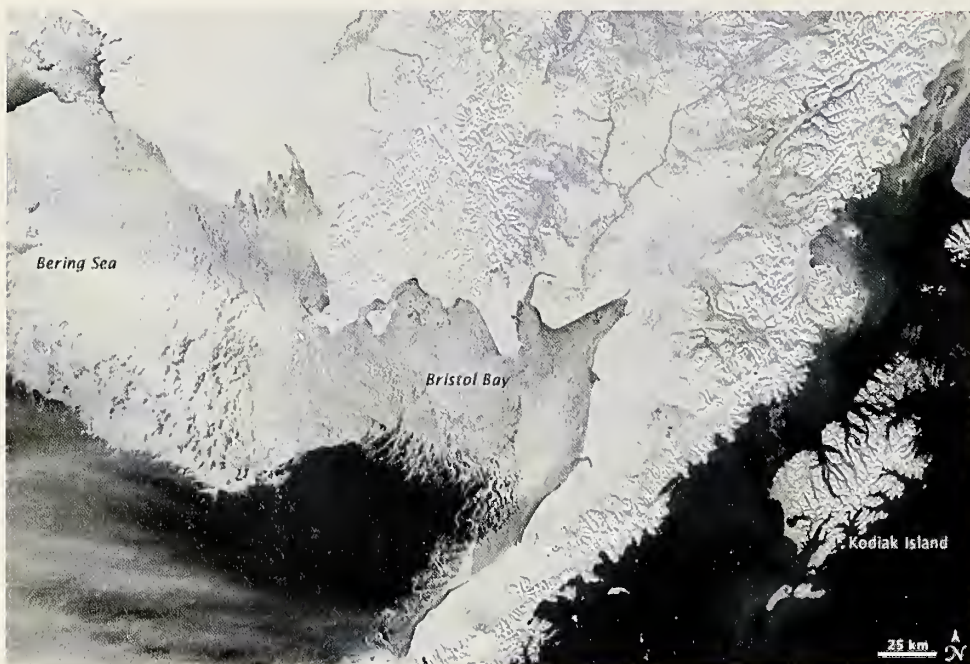


Figure 4. Bering Sea ice, late January 2012. After a very cold January in Alaska, resembling the winters of the 1960s and early 1970s, February was warmer than average, statewide by about 3.4° F, and sea ice was still relatively light in late January. *Image courtesy and copyright National Snow and Ice Data Center/NASA.*

subsequent months: April was above normal (+1.3°), but May was again colder than normal (−2.7° statewide). One exception in April was the southern Bering Sea, where sea ice was the most extensive since satellite studies began in 1979 (Figures 4, 5) and where St. Paul Island experienced deviation of −3.8° from the thirty-year average, with record-low daily temperatures set on 2 and 5 April. The sea ice suppressed air temperatures and kept ice-associated species closer to places visited by birders in the Bering Sea, particularly St. Paul Island, where 3000 King Eiders were noted on chilly 2 April and 1000 were still around 23 May for birding tour groups, which would expect to see 1% of that figure then. St. Lawrence Island, to the north, did not record unusually large numbers for that more northerly post but did have very

large counts of King Eiders into early June, dates when most would have passed northward already. Other late birds were one Ivory Gull at Anchorage 7 May and three passing Reef Point on St. Paul the next day. St. Paul birders also enjoyed record-high numbers of Black Guillemots, seen daily through the end of May, with of 26 birds on 20 May; daily counts from land in the Pribilofs are normally of singles or zero! Farther south, seawater surface temperatures were the coldest since measurements began, in 1997, and counts of Parakeet Auklets were off the charts, with at least 875 off Washington and Oregon and 200+ off California.

So what is going on with sea ice? What about all those dire scientific reports about the loss of sea ice? Why was there so much in the Bering Sea in March?

Well, it was really cold in March, so conditions were favorable for formation of first-year ice over much of the Bering Sea, where the extent of sea ice was above average for the month. Indeed, the pan-Arctic ice extent in March was very close to the long-term average. May was colder than normal in western Alaska, so retreat of the ice was slow, especially by recent expectations. But conditions changed rapidly as temperatures warmed in late May.

Across the Arctic, sea ice coverage was already 8% below average by early June—that's 1,000,000 km² less than average, almost the lowest extent on record for that time of year. A few isolated patches of sea ice remained in the Bering Sea in early June, and open water was already appearing in the Chukchi Sea and eastern Beaufort Sea, normally still ice-bound in early June.

One of the main reasons for the continuation of the recent extreme summer ice retreats is the loss of the thicker multiyear ice, which is less likely to melt in summer than the first-year ice. Although a small amount of multiyear ice still extends into the Beaufort Sea, the Chukchi and East Siberian Seas have lost the multiyear ice that was the norm in the Arctic Ocean just a few decades ago.

Even though this is the spring issue, I'm writing in late autumn, as usual, and so I'm looking back at the spring forecasts about sea ice extent but also at what actually happened this year. The international effort called SEARCH (Study of Environmental Arctic Change) publishes a Sea Ice Outlook (<http://www.arcus.org/search/seaiceoutlook/index.php>), and in 2012, rapid summer ice retreat was predicted, as seen in recent summer/autumn periods. The forecast was absolutely correct (Figure 6).

And the outlook for 2013? We have had La Niña conditions for a few years, but those have begun to abate. La Niña conditions were linked to the very cold November 2011 through March 2012 period in Alaska, and so if the winter of 2012-2013 is milder in Alaska, sea ice build-up may be much less, and the retreat may be even swifter in spring/summer 2013. Back-to-back La Niña winters off the Pacific Northwest, such as we have seen in the past two winters, are uncommon, so the forecasts are for rapid retreat of sea ice in 2013.

What happens when you lose an expanse of sea ice equivalent in size to Alaska and Canada combined, as we have in recent decades? (Many of you know about this; feel free to skip to the next paragraph.) Such a loss adds a very large amount of energy to the Arctic Ocean and thus to the atmosphere. Sea ice reflects the sun's energy, cooling the atmosphere. As sea ice is lost, the darker ocean waters are increasingly exposed to solar radiation. The ocean then absorbs far more energy than when covered with sea ice, which increases water and air temperatures, thus melting even more sea ice. Evaporation also increases when ice is not present, increasing humidity and precipitation. The release of methane from Arctic ecosystems, including terrestrial ones, produces a feed-

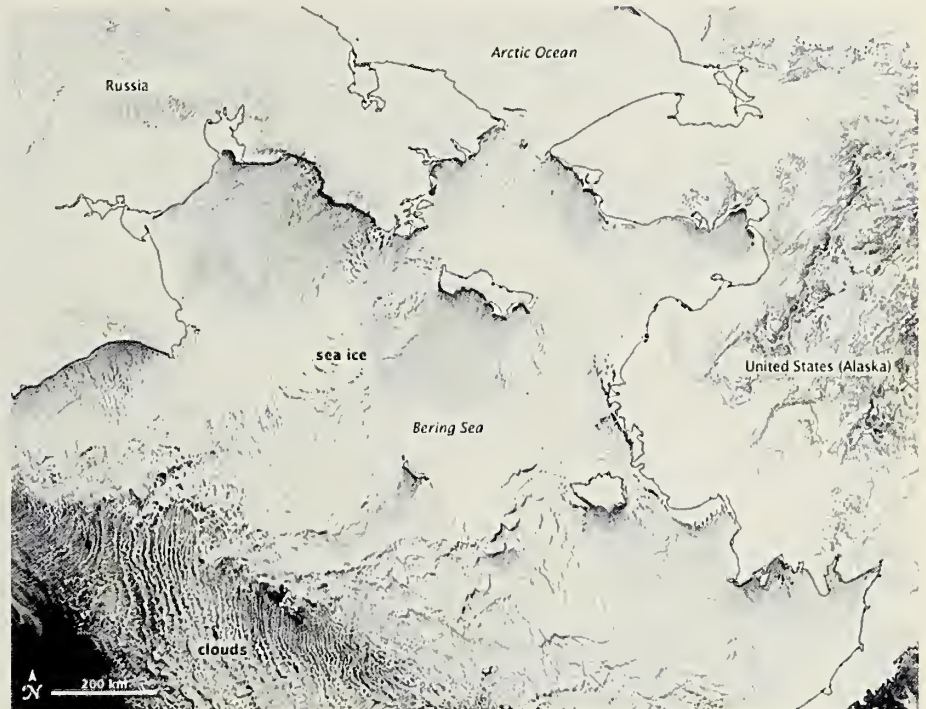


Figure 5. Bering Sea ice, maximum extent in spring 2012 (18 March). This extent of sea ice coverage is well above average for the middle of March, due in large measure to a very cold early March. Image courtesy of and copyright the National Snow and Ice Data Center/NASA.

back loop that accelerates the warming and melting processes even more. During freeze-up in fall, heat from the ocean is released into the atmosphere. So in addition to profoundly negative effects on the Arctic ecosystems, this increase in atmospheric energy will affect—is affecting—*global climate and weather* and thus other ecosystems. In other words: you and your local habitats. “Arctic amplification” is the term that climatologists give these phenomena, which accelerate the warming of the planet caused by human activities.

One recent paper argues that the disequilibrium in Arctic systems are partly to blame for the increasing amplitude of the jet stream in the north-south direction in the past few years (Francis and Vavrus 2012). The jet stream's energy is associated with temperature differences between the Arctic and the middle latitudes of the northern hemisphere, and it appears to be slowing and making larger troughs, which may mean more extreme weather events at middle latitudes. The cold, stormy/snowy winters of 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 in the United States and Europe were possibly products of changes in the Arctic—as was the unusually mild winter of 2011-2012. We are seeing generally warmer, stormier summers, which was expected during the era of climate change, but colder winters could also become more

frequent in the near term, as the jet stream buckles more wildly. There are many atmospheric phenomena that influence weather in North America, and we should continue to pay close attention to proximal ones, such as El Niño, La Niña, the Arctic Oscillation, and the North Atlantic Oscillation, as discussed in past Changing Seasons essays. But we should not underestimate the far-reaching impacts, including rises in sea level, of changes that occur in places most of us have never seen.

All of this is preamble to the predictable: it was a very, very warm spring.

The Birds

Over the years, I have asked subscribers how (or whether) they read this journal. One individual reads it cover to cover, but I'm sure he's the only one. Most people tell me the following: “I go to Pictorial Highlights; then I skim the regional reports for interesting photos and read the captions; then I read my region's report, and maybe Texas.” A few kind souls also read this essay; thank you. For those who have gotten this far, may I suggest another way to glean a maximum amount of information from each issue, without too much eyestrain? Try reading just the introductions to the regional reports, especially the longer ones. (If you don't have time, I have quoted liberally from them here.)

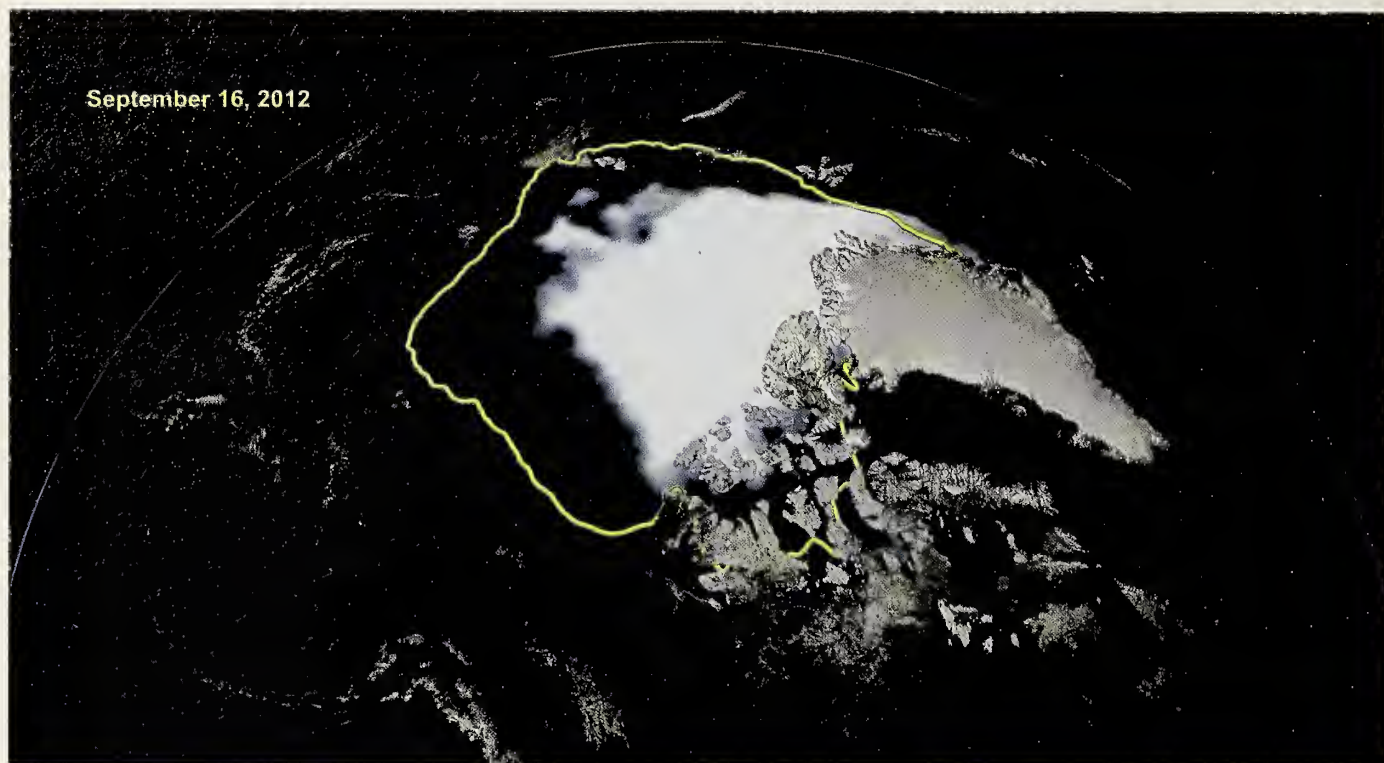


Figure 6. The minimum extent of northern hemisphere sea ice for 2012 (16 September), measured at 1.32 million square miles (3,418,784 km²); the area bordered in yellow represents the average extent of minimum sea ice. This photograph in fact depicts the least amount of sea ice in the history of satellite study of sea ice—half the average since 1979. According to the National Snow and Ice Data Center, this amount of sea ice may be unprecedented in human history. Image courtesy of and copyright the National Snow and Ice Data Center/NASA.

If you skim the introductions in this issue, you'll see how simple it was to perceive the season's themes: Early; and North. Migrants passed through early and arrived in breeding areas early, sometimes astonishingly so. Representatives of many species wintered well north of normal areas, sometimes astonishingly so. Waterfowl, a staple of March birding in so many places, were mostly gone by the first of the month, at least in some areas. The same was not necessarily true of other species or groups that migrate in facultative ways, but only New England, which had a warm March/April but a cool start to May, reported widespread lingering winter birds. The last of the winter's Snowy Owls were seen migrating northward, from Colorado to Nebraska to Illinois to Québec to Massachusetts, well into May, and the last of the Common Redpolls made a splash here and there—none more remarkably than southern California's second (ever) on San Clemente Island 3-4 May. (Could such a bird be a reverse migrant?)

Editors in many regions noted that it became difficult to define earliest "arrival" dates this spring, when warblers, tanagers, buntings, and other Neotropical migrants had wintered within their regions or neighboring ones. This essay has sometimes propounded

the notion that the anomalous early arrivals (not counting those birds swept up over the ocean when flying toward Florida—birds that often end up in Atlantic Canada or New England) could have been of birds that wintered in the United States, especially in the Southeast and most likely Florida. The rationale has been that long-distance Neotropical migrants, those that winter in tropical areas, cannot "know" about or respond to the record-warm weather patterns in North America in March by migrating well ahead of normal times. Their migration has always been linked to lengthening photo-period in spring, right?

Well, that instinct may well be more malleable than we have thought.

The unprecedented March heat wave, and mostly warm April, were credited with early arrivals from virtually every region from the Rockies eastward—far, far too many to list here—with the most extreme early dates coming chiefly from areas east of the Mississippi River. We have moved, in the history of this journal, from watching seasons pass with mostly moderate differences between them to witnessing rather profound changes in the phenology of migration and in the distribution of hundreds of our bird species. In the past, this essay has often attempted

to summarize the outliers and tease out relationships between latitudinally displaced birds and weather systems, often tentatively, or sometimes trying to peg early arrivals to weather systems. As spring 2012 unfolded, it was clear to me that the sheer volume of early birds would preclude a conclusive summary here; we would need a book to convey how remarkable this season was. Editors, especially in the East, were often overwhelmed by the dozens, sometimes scores of record-early dates and by the earliness of *peak* passage for many migrants, just as they had been floored by the late dates in autumn 2011 and the subsequent roster of overwintering species.

We should be clear: such changes cannot be collected, summarized, and analyzed by a reporting network, such as our wonderful *North American Birds* network, that is not fully automated. As Shai Mitra, Bob Paxton, and Frank Rohrbacher note in the spring report for the Hudson-Delaware region: "At this stage in our knowledge, the phenomenon of advancing spring arrival dates is best analyzed quantitatively." They cite Jeff Bolsinger's analysis of average arrival dates in New York's St. Lawrence region, which found that average arrival for 84 regular spring-migrant species was record early in 2012, with *earliest*

arrival date setting records for at least 17 species. These results are truly amazing. And we are obliged to turn to computerized data-rich sources like eBird, and to statistics, to tell us in more precise terms what's going on.

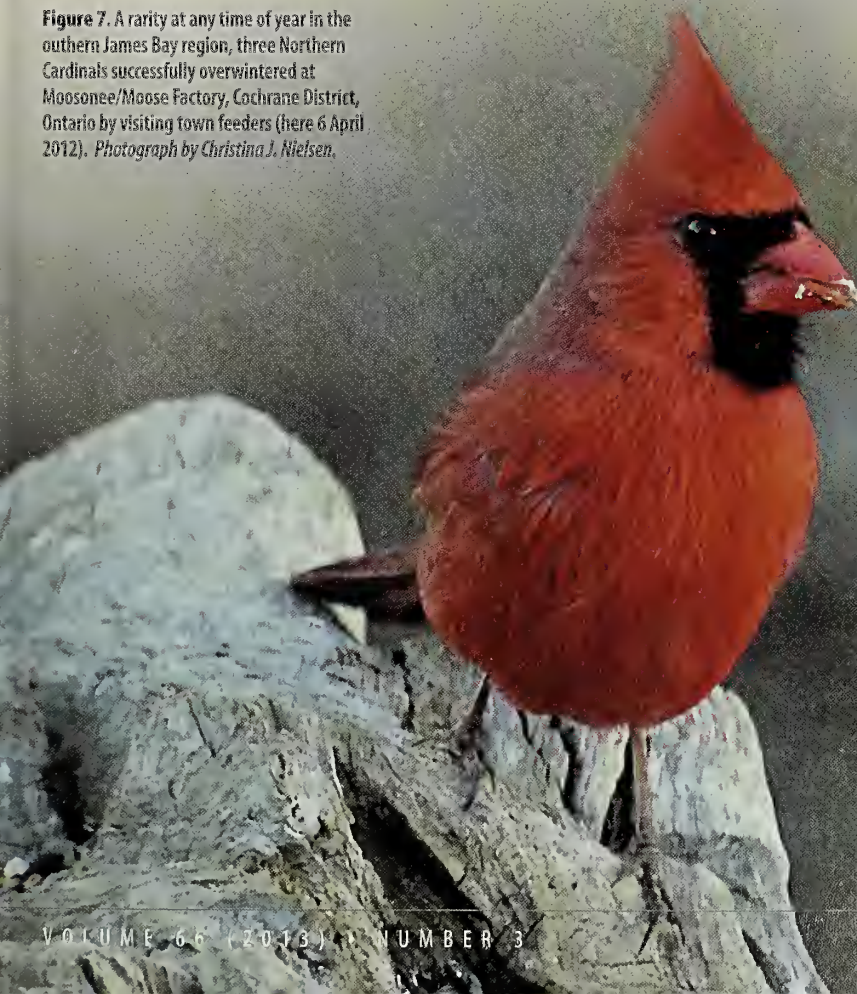
By contrast, observers in southern California called spring 2012 "normal" for the timing of migrants. Guy McCaskie and Kimball Garrett comment: "Pinning down arrival dates of spring migrants and interpreting these dates in the context of shifting phenologies associated with accelerating climate change is fraught with difficulties in our Region (where few constant-effort site-based surveys are undertaken and where almost any long-distance migrant species can, and often will, overwinter)." McCaskie and Garrett provide first spring arrival data for 26 species, all deemed to be pretty much on time. Farther north on the West Coast, the last few weeks of the season were cool (even snowy at higher elevations/latitudes), as was true in spring 2011, with negative impacts on the productivity of insectivores like swallows and flycatchers and delayed arrivals in breeding areas for some migrants (Frontispiece).

In Tennessee and Kentucky, Chris Sloan and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. described many



Figure 8. One of number of half-hardy species detected in early March 2012 that certainly must have overwintered locally, this Seaside Sparrow was at Scarborough Marsh, Maine 11 March, far too early for an early migrant (right?). Photograph by Derek Lovitch.

Figure 7. A rarity at any time of year in the southern James Bay region, three Northern Cardinals successfully overwintered at Moosonee/Moose Factory, Cochrane District, Ontario by visiting town feeders (here 6 April 2012). Photograph by Christina J. Nielsen.



early birds but also indicate a problem distinguishing possibly half-hardy birds that might have wintered from truly early migrants found in March and early April. They write: "For some species that winter occasionally in the Region, the arrival dates were clouded by a continuum of reports." They list a series of reports for House Wrens—but also for several warbler species, among them, three Northern Parulas that were detected 20-21 March, almost a week early for Kentucky. Back in New York, Mitra and colleagues write: "More enigmatic was a Northern Parula at Silver Lake Park, Richmond County 10-18 March. This bird, which was reportedly present even earlier, would seem much more likely a winter survivor that had gone undetected, or had begun moving about as the days lengthened, than a migrant from normal wintering areas. Another in Milford, Sussex County Delaware 1 April was more likely a very early migrant, in view of a small but growing list of similar dates in the Region." There may be no way to know, in such cases, which birds are migrants coming from distant wintering grounds, but



Figure 9. Pomarine Jaegers rarely overwinter in Ontario, and probably no wintering Pomarine has been as well documented as this one at Etobicoke, Metropolitan Toronto, which was seen only on 25 March 2012. But could such a bird have been an early migrant? Photograph by Joshua D. Vandermeulen.

there was context for early arrivals in this species elsewhere: at Finzel Swamp, in Garrett County, western Maryland 22 March and near the same latitude as the New York bird in Tippecanoe County, Indiana 17 March. In the Southern Atlantic region, defining "early migrant" this season was even dicier—Ken Blankenship, Richard Hall, and Josh Southern call an adult male Black-throated Blue in Fairfield County, South Carolina on 8 March "baffling," but if one spent the entire winter at Napeague, Suffolk County, New York (where last observed 31 March), then why not interior South Carolina?

It is possible, even likely, that some very early birds that turn up in the higher latitudes had spent the winter in the Gulf coast states or Carolinas, surely; we know that several eastern states were home to 15–20 warbler species through early January, at least. But take a look at several early arrivals in Gulf coast states: Hooded Warbler (12 March, AL); Swainson's Warbler (18 March, AL); Summer Tanager (28 March, AL); Worm-eating Warbler (28 March, LA); Scarlet Tanager (31 March, AL); Blue-winged Warbler (2 April, AL); Golden-winged Warbler (5 April, AL). Mind you, this season's migration was considered very poor in most areas, with very few fallouts away from southern/western Florida (thanks to clement, warm weather), so there were not very many migrants on the outer coasts to write home about. But I don't think we are entitled to assume that migrants found a week or more early in Indiana or Kentucky or New York were northerly overwintering

birds; clearly, at least some birds are coming up through the Caribbean or from the Yucatan Peninsula earlier than they did in the past. Perhaps these early birds, if they nested successfully, are passing their genes to their offspring; and perhaps such birds are not early at all but right on time, the vanguard of the "new normal" for their species.

So editors dealing with reports of "wildly" early birds (say, two or more standard deviations early?) need to keep open but critical minds, especially after several seasons in which we've had those minds blown. Granted, we now have many new observers, many of them users of eBird, whose skills are still unknown to us; and we suffer a dearth of well-written details such as never before. "Field notes" is a phrase, and a practice, unfamiliar to many recent birding enthusiasts. On the plus side, mercifully, more and more people are using cameras, and so some of these reports have some supporting material that makes evaluation possible. Nevertheless, our expectations based on past decades of migration (and even our eBird regional filters, recently fine-tuned by reviewers) seem out of step with rapidly changing avian realities.

For editors and eBird reviewers, the spring brought a literal deluge of early birds to many regions. A casual skim of the regional reports produces a long list of birds called "early"

or "very early": geese, ducks, kites, vultures, rails, cranes, plovers, stilts, sandpipers, terns, skimmer, cuckoos, nighthawk, swifts, hummingbirds (see S.A. in New England report), flycatchers (kingbirds!), vireos, crows, swallows, wrens, gnatcatchers, kinglets, thrushes, thrashers, catbird, pipits, longspurs, warblers, sparrows, tanagers, *Passerina* buntings, Dickcissel, blackbirds, Bobolink, orioles—in short, almost every landbird that regularly migrates.

Among these are records that almost defy understanding. Canadian birders are not normally looking for kingbirds in March. Had they not been well documented, an Eastern Kingbird at Chebucto Head, Nova Scotia 24 March and a Western Kingbird at La Rivière, Manitoba 31 March—both a month early or more—might not have been believed. Also in the last week of March, Red-eyed Vireos (!) made inroads into the Southeast, with several arriving in northern North Carolina 26 March and 16 of them at one Georgia location 31 March. In Calhoun County, Georgia, a Kentucky Warbler sang away on 24 March; a Black-throated Green Warbler was on territory in that state's mountains on 17 March. Cincinnati had an Olive-sided Flycatcher 27 April; Newfoundland had nine Arctic Terns the next day. Illinois, Indiana, Québec—all registered too many record-early birds to list here.

For long-time students of migration, these

Figure 10. Glossy Ibis is rare inland in the Southeast, but this bird was in an even more unusual location on 10 May 2012—the mountains of Henderson County, North Carolina. Photograph by Wayne Forsythe.



dates look like typographic errors; they produce a sense of shock. In South Dakota, a White-throated Swift on 1 April was not an April Fool's Day joke, nor was one at Dinosaur Ridge, Colorado on 6 March. In the Northeast, most notably early birds were a mere ten days to two weeks early, such as the Mourning Warblers in Connecticut and New York 2 May. In the Hudson-Delaware report, the word "early" appears 38 times. Just as thousands of local meteorological records were broken this spring, so were thousands of local ornithological records for early arrival. And the pace of shattered records is increasing, in both cases.

More and more, however, we find strong context for early arrivals, which is to say, they do not defy understanding. Of the 20-25 March arrivals of Louisiana Waterthrush across the lower Hudson-Delaware region, Mitra and fellow editors note: "Unlike several of the species discussed above and below in the context of unexpected March occurrence, Louisiana Waterthrush was until very recently almost completely restricted to the tropics during winter. That winter records are beginning to accumulate in the southernmost states, and this species' overall migration timing also appears to be advancing, are powerful illustrations of how mutable and dynamic birds' seasonal movements can be." Take a look at arrival dates for this species in other regions—all at least a week early. Even Wisconsin recorded one on 26 March.

In many bird species, a tendency to winter farther and farther north is associated with a northward expansion of breeding range, and for perhaps 100 years, Northern Cardinal has been a poster-bird for that phenomenon in the East, at least. But Northern Cardinals up on James Bay all winter (Figure 7) seem remarkably hardcore, feeding stations or no. This spring, Montana recorded its ninth and tenth cardinals in Richland County and Phillips County, and Wyoming recorded its fifteenth, while in Colorado, a few were seen pioneering up to Pueblo and to Brett Gray Ranch in Lincoln County.

Red-bellied Woodpecker has been another flagship bird of the northward-expanding species, and this season, after a remarkable fall flight and dozens found overwintering, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia enjoyed scores of them (see the S.A. box), with nesting confirmed for the first time ever in New Brunswick. One remarkable bird made it through the winter in Newfoundland, and another made it to Lac-Labrie, Québec at 50.19° N!

Fish Crow is a more recent pioneer to the



Figure 11. This stunning warbler caught for banding on 25 April 2012 at Leslie Street Spit, Metropolitan Toronto, Ontario is almost certainly a Townsend's Warbler x Black-throated Gray Warbler hybrid—a combination documented only a few times previously, all in British Columbia. Photograph by Amanda C. Guercio.



Figure 12. One of the more unexpected finds of the spring 2012 season in Texas was this Red-billed Pigeon that visited a feeder near Lost Maples State Natural Area, Real County 10-12 (here 10) May. This species had been reported from the Edwards Plateau previously, but this bird was the first to be documented by photograph there. Photograph by Tripp Davenport.

northern tier, with records really starting in the late 1970s, and this spring produced another bunch of northerly records. Two continued in Berrien County, Michigan, and Québec's first ever turned up at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 20 April. Ontario experienced what Alan Wormington calls a "distinct ir-

ruption, with many locations reporting their first Fish Crow ever. The majority of sightings were concentrated in the 'Golden Horseshoe' of southern Ontario, but none were reported from the extreme southwest of the province, where the species usually occurs annually. This pattern would indicate that the birds



Figure 13. Two Great Kiskadees appeared at Red Slough Wildlife Management Area, McCurtain County, Oklahoma 5 (here 29) May 2012, making the fifth record for the Southern Great Plains region. The birds remained in the area through the end of the month. Photograph by Dave Arbour.

this spring originated from the East Coast, presumably via upstate New York." In Ohio, the state's second record of Fish Crow, seven birds strong, made news by nesting at Shaker Heights in April.

Other species found in March (and that almost certainly wintered locally) show little or no pattern of northerly wintering as yet, but we should be attentive for shifts in wintering patterns: take for instance the early March Seaside Sparrow in Maine (Figure 8) and the late March Pomarine Jaeger at Toronto (Figure 9). Were these birds wintering, as local birders suspect, or could they have been newly arrived migrants? After all, each bird was under 800 kilometers (a day's flight, on good winds) from regular wintering areas. Although these records are not without precedent at these latitudes at this time of year, they are both roughly a month early for migrants of their species, and so they fall into a gray area, without any real pattern.

Latitudinally significant records of this sort are not the only ones to watch. High-elevation records of southerly species are becoming more and more impressive, such this season's Glossy Ibis in Henderson County, North Carolina (elevation about 600 m; Figure 10). One could say that the Colorado records of American Bittern at De Weese Reservoir 30 April (2340 m) or Great Egret at Salida 19 April (2159 m) were not so remarkable, in a state with much higher elevations; but how much higher would they need to be to raise

eyebrows? Certainly, the Great Egret near Portage, Alaska 28 May was another indication that many southerly species are movin' up, in one respect or other; all of Alaska's records of the species have come since 1980, all in the era of climate change.

We read about new elevational records, normally of species "upslope" from typical elevations, in the reports from Mexico and Central America often, and occasionally from Hawaii as well, but in recent years, we read of more and more species at higher elevations in the Lower 48 states as well, for instance, Swainson's Thrushes and Veeries nesting at higher and higher elevations, into areas previously only occupied by Bicknell's Thrush. Hybridization may increase during periods of changing climate change, as suggested tentatively by researchers who discovered a Veery x Bicknell's Thrush hybrid in 2008 on Stratton Mountain, Vermont (Rimmer 2008).

Some regional reports in this journal are regularly bursting with reports of hybrids. The Oregon and Washington region, where hybrids are regularly detected in large numbers, reports an apparent Great Egret x Great Blue Heron hybrid this season at Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge 6-23 May; I cannot find any mention of such a bird in the literature. Likewise, the report from the Colorado and Wyoming region brims with documentation of hybrids, including a Harris's Sparrow x White-crowned Sparrow, a Say's Phoebe x Black Phoebe, and a Yellow-throated Vireo

paired with a Plumbeous! And check the reports from New England (hybrid egrets), Florida (cormorants), Eastern Highlands and Upper Ohio River Valley (six waterfowl hybrids), Southern Great Plains (ibis), and Texas (woodpeckers). In Ontario, an apparent Townsend's Warbler x Black-throated Gray Warbler hybrid was caught at Toronto (Figure 11). The ranges of these warbler species overlap, but this particular hybrid combination has only been verified a few times before, in British Columbia—near Gold River 1 June 1988 (Rowher 1994) and at a banding operation near Rocky Point, Metchosis in the 1990s (*vide* Michael Shepard)—unlike hybrids and backcrosses of Townsend's with Black-throated Green Warbler, which are rather abundant where ranges meet in British Columbia (Toews et al. 2011). And speaking of Townsend's and Black-throated Greens: how many extralimital birds identified as either species have been scrutinized for aspects

of the other? How many birders are aware that hybrids of the two are common?

The sharp increase in the reporting of hybrids to the editorial network of this journal surely relates in part to the increase in the numbers of birders and their smarts (and cameras), not simply to an increase in hybridization. But if indeed the changing climate does begin to stimulate new hybrid zones, as some have theorized, birders are likely to be the first to take notice. We should not be shy about raising questions about birds that look a little "off"; and we should not chastise those who raise the questions. In the current era, we owe it to the birds to pay careful attention to identification—and to put aside the emotional politics that often plague bird identification, politics whose roots are often not in science or skepticism but in games played with birds.

The Tropics—Coming soon to a location near you

In recent years, we have grown accustomed to Brown Pelicans wandering the Great Lakes, Southwest, and Great Plains, to Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks stealing the show wherever they go, and to ibises almost everywhere, but northerly Brown Boobies still have some star power: New Brunswick's first came aboard a fishing vessel in the Grand Manan Basin 20 May this season, and Virginia got its seventh off Wachapreague, Accomack County 25 March, also a bird that landed on a fishing vessel. Both birds were documented by the

boats' captains—and would not have become part of the ornithological record otherwise. March in Virginia is often cold, and few birders go looking for boobies in March.

Neotropic Cormorant, now nesting in Florida and making inroads in southern California, interior Texas, and Utah, also has some ability to impress. One at Calumet Park, Illinois popped over into Indiana 11 April, for a second state record, while Ontario's fourth was at Pelee Island 16 May. Several were seen in Iowa in April and May, and South Dakota recorded its fifth in Brule County 27-29 April and sixth in Brown County 18 May. Remarkably, Neotropics now overwinter in Oklahoma, and they're regular enough in Kansas and Nebraska that Joe Grzybowski and Ross Silcock don't enumerate the records (more than 20)! Colorado got in on the act, with another Neotropic near Saint Vrain State Park in Weld County 19 April. How much longer before the species makes its debut in the Northeast?

As cardinals survive winters on James Bay, so passerines we think of as tropical forge inroads into the heartland, with standouts

this season being the first Red-billed Pigeon photographed in the Edwards Plateau at Lost Maples State Natural Area (where many of us have enjoyed Golden-cheeked Warblers) 10-12 May (Figure 12) and the pair of Great Kiskadees that took up Oklahoma residence at Red Slough Wildlife Management Area (Figure 13). Many veteran birders struggled with records of a kiskadee (or two?) in New York City last autumn, as there is scant evidence of North American vagrancy in the literature. But in this new age of caracaras criss-crossing the continent, and kiskadees expanding northward as nesters, perhaps we should entertain the possibility that the New York birds (or bird) were part of a rather new set of phenomena, in which the sedentary southern-tier "specialties" become anticipated vagrants to the northern-tier states and Canada?

Frontiers falling

Of all the remarkable records of the spring, two stand out most strongly in memory, both of them representing very long-distance movements. The first was of an elaenia, either

Small-billed or White-crested (the jury is still out), found in Douglas Park, Chicago, Illinois by Aaron Gyllenhaal and Ethan Gyllenhaal on 17 April (Figure 14). Very few of us will ever discover a bird this rare in our lifetimes, much less in our teen years, and they had the good sense to document the bird carefully with photographs and to post them online for discussion. Hundreds were able to get out and enjoy this South American bird, which became a star on YouTube as well. There is a 9-10 February 2008 Texas record of White-crested Elaenia, thought to be a likely reverse migrant that flew northward rather than southward in the austral spring (northern autumn period), as many Fork-tailed Flycatchers appear to do. So why was an elaenia in Chicago in springtime (austral autumn), a time of year when both species move toward wintering areas? If this bird overshot its wintering areas, it made an error of 4300-5000 kilometers at least, a remarkable passage, no matter which species was involved. These young gentlemen get our Practiced Eye Award, for recognizing that this bird was interesting, for documenting it, for

Figure 14. The most-discussed bird of spring 2012 must have been this elaenia, thought by many to be North America's first Small-billed Elaenia, that appeared 17 (here 21) April at Chicago's Douglas Park. Experts are still discussing the possibility that the photographs and video indicate instead the similar White-crested Elaenia, for which there is a single North American record, from Texas. Photograph by Jerry Goldner.



opening a discussion about its identification, and for spreading the word on the bird in a very timely manner. Nice work, guys!

The other memorable record of spring 2012 involved a displacement of even greater distance. The adult Northern Gannet found at Southeast Farallon Island, California by biologist Pete Warzybok on 25 April amazed even the unflappable among us. It took up residence there among Common Murres and is still being seen as I write this, in autumn. This record, the first for the Pacific, follows one seen in the Chukchi Sea near Barrow, Alaska 16-17 August 2010. As Steve Rottenborn, Mike Rogers, Jeff Davis, and Ed Pandolfino write: "It is speculated that increasing open water within the diminishing Arctic Ocean ice pack has encouraged a few gannets (or maybe just this one?) to wander westward from the Atlantic." As thrilling as this record may be, then, it is equally chilling. Even as we watch temperatures moving up, and species moving northward, our sense of what is east and what is west, what is Atlantic and what is Pacific, will be tested as well, as the barrier of Arctic ice between them passes away.

In this vein, I would like to reprint the conclusion of Blake Maybank's spring report from the Atlantic Provinces and St. Pierre et Miquelon: "The effects of climate change on birdlife are difficult to study in the current funding climate: financial support for environmental science is decreasing even more quickly than the temperature is rising. Environmental conservation is anathema to the current conservative federal government in Canada; the federal agencies with purview over the environment have had their budgets slashed, and the majority of environmental reviews across the nation have been cancelled. And so birders, all volunteers, observe, record, photograph, report, and are left to try to make some sense of our observations." This is coming from Canada, a country whose relatively progressive political and environmental sensibilities have often stood in contrast to those of their neighbors to the south. This is a very worrisome state of affairs.

In order for us to comprehend more precisely how the phenology of spring migration in 2012 compares to that of past spring seasons, it behooves us all to go back to those checklists of past decades and enter the data into eBird. A lot of work? You bet. But the more robust the database, the deeper our understanding. Many of us have dozens of boxes or cabinets filled with old records that contain valuable information that exists nowhere else. As tedious a chore as it may seem, the addition of these data to a central reposi-

tory will strengthen not just ornithological history but our sense of how much has really changed in recent decades. We are poised, in this long tradition of amateur ornithology, to leave the realm of speculation and anecdote—and to shed that diminishing adjective "amateur" for good. As Maybank's homily admonishes: If we don't do it, who will?

Just as nations vie for advantageous geopolitical positions in the era of ice-free seas (Rosenthal 2012), so birders may bicker about boundaries of one kind or another—what record counts for what list, or what states or seas may be assigned to one polity or another—or about what groups or what projects deserve our support or our opprobrium. In the mean time, our avifauna undergoes massive transitions, even upheaval. In the face of a gannet making a nest in California, our squabbles may appear trivial. And so we once again underscore here the need to set aside what is not productive or important, to join forces, and to give our observations, past and present, a single home. We should, certainly, continue to discuss and debate the best ways to manage, review, and analyze our data—and we will have differences of opinion, to be sure. But we birders, along with climatologists, are privileged to possess a deeper understanding of the upheaval than most of our fellow citizens, and we owe it to them, and to the birds, to make our insight public and to have it grounded not in rhetoric but in a robust dataset that has the respect of the scientific community.

To close on a positive note, I offer a quotation from the bold introduction to the Hudson-Delaware report, written by Shai Mitra, which reminds us of the power that an army of birders wields to unlock the secrets of bird movemenst in the here and now:

The mild weather of March 2012 followed directly upon an unusually warm winter season, and this prolonged period of exceptional warmth had numerous and striking impacts on bird movements. The present report focuses to a large extent on these impacts, including not only the tempo and mode of early spring migration, long known to be strongly weather-dependent, but also on the behavior of overwintering vagrant and half-hardy birds. It is becoming increasingly clear that the seasonally unusual birds in these two categories share many similarities in their mode of occurrence in our Region, and I would even go as far as to argue that our emerging understanding of these

parallels is one of the most impressive achievements of ornithological citizen science, at least in the last century. If the last statement seems a bit hyperbolic, consider that birders are the only people both interested in, and capable of measuring the occurrence of, either rare extralimital species or sparsely distributed "lingering" Neotropical migrants—both of which are increasingly exploiting the urban and suburban East as wintering grounds.

Acknowledgments

I thank Thede Tobish for help in interpreting Alaskan climate and weather. Data on Alaskan weather from past years is drawn from reports by the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy, funded by NOAA as one of its Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments programs. As the effects of climate change become more insidious, we are ever more indebted to hardworking climatologists, who help us make sense of our planet's predicament; I thank staff at the Alaska Climate Research Center for replying so quickly and thoroughly to questions about spring 2012. Finally, I thank Dick Cannings, Darren Irwin, Michael G. Shepard, and Chris Charlesworth for background on the warbler hybrids of British Columbia, and Chris Rimmer and Kent McFarland for information on the thrushes of Mount Stratton, Vermont.

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Atlantic Provinces & St. Pierre et Miquelon



Blake Maybank

It was another record-breaking warm spring across the Region, highlighted by the particularly noteworthy week-long March heat wave. Since September 2011, each successive month in Nova Scotia has been the warmest on record, in fact. The effects of climate change on birdlife are difficult to study in the current funding climate: financial support for environmental science is decreasing even more quickly than the temperature is rising. Environmental conservation is anathema to current conservative federal government in Canada; the federal agencies with purview over the environment have had their budgets slashed, and the majority of environmental reviews across the nation have been cancelled. And so birders, all volunteers, observe, record, photograph, report, and are left to try to make some sense of our observations.

Even though we are compelled to interpret data gathered opportunistically, two trends were clear this season: migratory species arrived 7-10 days earlier than the recent averages; and the number of birds that passed through the Region or arrived to breed here continued to decline in number. With only one new provincial record, it was not an especially remarkable spring for rarities, and there was just one notable fallout, along Nova Scotia's Atlantic coast.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Greater White-fronted Geese, all of the Greenland subspecies *flavrostris*, made the news in two provinces. In Nova Scotia, the ad. at Garden Lots, Lunenburg stayed through 16 Mar, and an imm. at Barney's River Bridge, Pictou 3-7 Apr (KM) was likely the same individual seen there 27 Jan. Another ad. was at East River, Pictou 27 Apr (KM). In New Brunswick, an

ad. accompanied 4 Canada Geese at Castalia Marsh 12-22 May (R. LeBlanc et al., m.ob.). A blue Snow Goose on St. Pierre 27-29 May (RÉt, Frédéric Disnard) furnished the first local record for that morph. The wintering male Canvasback at Saint John, NB remained through 24 Mar; on the same date, a male was located at Lower Jemseg (Linda Kneebone, Judy Nason). A Ruddy Duck at Allisary Creek, PEI 7 Apr (DS, RC, DM) was record early. The species is now well established at that location and breeds in some numbers, making it the most reliable site in the Region for viewing this recent colonizer. A Tufted Duck was a local rarity at Rocky Harbour, on Newfoundland's w. coast 16 May (Darroch Whittaker); a Tufted Duck x scaup hybrid was seen at Pictou Causeway, NS 3 Mar (James Hirtle). Gray Partridge went unreported for the 4th straight season in their last remaining Nova Scotia outpost, near Truro; the extirpation clock is ticking.

The first Sooty Shearwater of the year in Nova Scotia (12 May) was unusually far to the e. in the Bay of Fundy at Huntington Pt., Kings, providing one of very few records from that county (Richard Stern). New Brunswick's first **Brown Booby**, an imm., came aboard a fishing vessel working in the Grand Manan Basin, close to Nova Scotian waters, 20 May. Captain Neil Morse quickly took a series of photographs to document the bird; there are two other firm records from Nova Scotia. Two pairs of Northern Gannets attempted to nest on Machias Seal I., NB; the only other modern breeding record for the province is of three pairs nesting on White Horse I., Charlotte in 1999, with one pair hatching one young (the last historical nesting in New Brunswick was 1866). A lone Northern Gannet off St. Pierre 20 Mar was the earliest ever in spring by six days. A species rare throughout the Region, a wandering American White Pelican made the news on Newfoundland but largely avoided the eyes of hopeful birders. It was first photographed by an observer at Roddickton on the Great Northern Pen. 20 May, with the photographs shown during a provincial television newscast. It departed 22 May; and what was presumably the same bird was then spotted at Biscay Bay on the Avalon Pen. 30-31 May, then at Come By Chance 1 Jun, and finally at Laminé, Burin Pen. 3-4 Jun.

The spring heron flight was moderate and confined almost entirely to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick (Table 1). Most initial sightings corresponded nicely with a late Apr weather system that grounded



Furnishing a first record for New Brunswick was this subadult Brown Booby in the Grand Manan Basin 20 May 2012. Photograph by Neil Morse.

many passerines along the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia. Birds then wandered, which makes tabulating the number of individuals involved difficult. The rarest sightings were of 2 Tricolored Herons together on Cape Sable I., NS 30 Apr (RD et al.) and another at Lars Larsen Marsh, Albert, NB 27 Apr (Sybil & Peter Wentzell, ph.). Two cooperative Green Herons, one in St. Pierre 1-19 May (LJ, PH) and one at Sullivan's Pond in the heart of Dartmouth, NS 3-7 May (David Currie, m.ob.), were also noteworthy.

Least Bitterns are rare, and rarely seen, breeders in New Brunswick, so a cooperative pair at Saints Rest Marsh, Saint John 25 May+ was appreciated (ph. Nick Hawkins et al.). Turkey Vultures continue their spread across the Maritimes (including 7+ on Prince Edward Island), and at the same time, Black Vultures are being reported more frequently, with one in Nova Scotia and 2 in New Brunswick adding to the 50+ records in the former province, 40+ in the latter. The unprecedented wintering Gyrfalcon on St. Pierre lingered into Apr (*vide*

Table 1. Counts of herons, egrets, and ibis in Atlantic Canada and St. Pierre et Miquelon, spring 2012.

Species/Province	NS	NB	PEI	SPM	NL
Great Egret	15	1	0	0	1
Snowy Egret	4	2	0	0	0
Little Blue Heron	3	1	0	0	0
Tricolored Heron	2	1	0	0	0
Cattle Egret	3	1	0	0	0
Green Heron	2	4	0	1	0
Glossy Ibis	0	2	1	0	0

SA The extraordinary influx of Red-bellied Woodpeckers last autumn and early winter across the Maritimes was tracked in New Brunswick by Jim Wilson, who provided the following summary. "My daily record of the fall/winter invasion shows at least 155 individuals appeared in New Brunswick at specific locations between mid-Oct 2011 and 5 Jan 2012. On top of that, 71 were counted on 24 C.B.C.s, thus likely many double-counts. But I think it would be safe to say that upward of 200 individuals arrived in New Brunswick before 5 Jan. I know of at least 28 that were still present at the end of Apr. These included seven pairs: one in Saint John (Joan Pearce), two in Quispamsis (Ian Cameron, Joanne Savage), one in Hampton (Laurie Mills), one in Bloomfield (Helen McLaughlin), and two in St. George, *Charlotte* (Ralph Eldridge). All but the St. George birds were located along the Kennebecasis River Valley from Saint John to Bloomfield. Of those pairs, there was one nest excavation in Quispamsis that was usurped by starlings (Cameron) and two documented fledglings of young, by the pair at Hampton (Mills) and one of the pairs at St. George (Eldridge). These represent first documented breeding for Red-bellied Woodpecker for the province." There was no such methodical survey of Nova Scotia records, but there were 40+ reports across the mainland through the spring, including several pairs, and there was a successful nesting in Lower Sackville (Don Codling), the 2nd ever for the province. The individual at St. John's, NL overwintered successfully.

REt). Broad-winged Hawks are rare on Prince Edward Island and have not nested there, but singles have been seen in recent springs; this season, one was noted near Glen Rd. 26 May (*fide* DSe). A Red-shouldered Hawk at Northfield, Lunenburg, NS 30-31 Mar (JH) made a rare and early spring record for the Region. There were single transient Sandhill Cranes in each of the three Maritime Provinces but no evidence of breeding pairs. A Virginia Rail was heard in Prince Edward Island 26 May at the unusual location of Reeds and Rushes Trail (*fide* DSe). The desiccated remains of a Purple Gallinule were found at Bonavista Bay, NL; the bird had presumably arrived the previous autumn. The wintering American Coot in St. Pierre stayed through the end of Mar, then departed. Four wintering coots at Mundy Pond, St. John's, NL were joined by 5 others 2 Apr (Brendan Kelly).

A Semipalmated Plover at Trenton, Pictou, NS 2 Apr (KM et al., ph.) was record early for the province by four days. An Upland Sandpiper, recorded less than annually in Nova Scotia, lingered nicely 30 Apr–5 May on Cape Sable I. (ph. Clyde Stoddart et al.). Seventeen Red Knots wintered on St. Pierre, but the spring flight was unexceptional, with just 4 in Prince Edward Island and a handful in Nova Scotia. A female Ruff near the town of St. Pierre 20 May (JD, PH, PB) was the 5th recorded for St. Pierre et Miquelon, while a Short-billed Dowitcher 29 May (LJ) was just the 3rd spring occurrence there. One of 3 Long-billed Dowitch-

ers that arrived on Cape Sable I. in late autumn successfully overwintered. An American Woodcock at New Horton, Albert, NB 7 Mar (ph. ST et al.) was early.

GULLS THROUGH LONGSPURS

An ad. Laughing Gull at Martinique Beach, Halifax Regional Municipality, NS 12 May (Bob & Wendy McDonald) was oddly juxtaposed with a tardy Iceland Gull there. A first-cycle Herring Gull on Brier I., NS 12 Apr (EM) exhibited features consistent with the nominate subspecies of n. Europe, a taxon that many authorities treat as a different species from North American *smithsonianus*. A Common Tern at Abercrombie, Pictou, NS 28 Apr (KM) was an exceptionally early bird. Eight Arctic Terns on the e. coast of the Avalon Pen. 28 Apr—2 at Renewes, 5 at Cape Broyle, one

at Goulds—plus one at Witless Bay the next day (m.ob.) were likely displaced migrants en route to Iceland, as locally breeding Arctic Terns do not normally arrive until the last third of May. As fog receded at Portugal Cove South, Avalon Pen. 26 Apr, at least 25 jaegers, mostly Pomarine, were tallied (DSh). In the same community on 12 May, Eugene Ward found an ad. Long-tailed Jaeger on the playground behind the Community Centre in the morning and kept it fed on fish until others arrived to photograph and enjoy the discovery (DSh et al.) A Dovekie off East Pt., PEI 29 Apr was both unseasonable and provincially rare (Gary Schneider, Scott Sinclair). Atlantic Puffins appear to be thriving in sw. Nova Scotia; at the s. Tusket Is., just n. of Seal I., 75+ were on Round I., 25+ on Mud I., and 100+ near Noddy I. 5 May (RD, Sharron Marlor). At Green I., off Cape Sable I., another 40+ puffins were counted during the season.

A White-winged Dove visited a feeder in Glace Bay, Cape Breton, NS 12 May (Bev & George Sarty); another was at St. Martins, NB 18-20 May (Ted Sears). The wintering Red-headed Woodpecker at Tracadie, PEI (6th provincial record) was last seen 12 Apr.

The unprecedented Mar heat wave might explain the absurdly early appearance of an Eastern Kingbird at Chebucto Head, NS 24 Mar (ph. Hans Toom). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher found 30 Apr at Elgin, Albert, NB stayed through 8 May, delighting the province's birders (John & Brenda Carty et al.). Grand Manan I. hosted a cooperative White-eyed Vireo 12-18 May (Roger Leblanc et al., ph.). The lone male Black-capped Chickadee at St. Pierre was not reported this spring. Assuming it is the same bird first noted in 2003, the bird was at least nine years old, which would be very old for a chickadee. An extremely early Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was on Grand Manan I. 19 Apr (Roger Burrows), and this was followed by a singing gnatcatcher at Cavendish, PEI 24 Apr (Rick Hawkins), a bird most unexpected in time and place. A Varied Thrush at Westcock, NB 1-3 Mar (Paul Bogaard) had likely wintered elsewhere in the province; one was noted near Saint John in Jan.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Individual Yellow-breasted Chats successfully overwintered at Halifax and on Grand Manan Island. A male *Summer Tanager* in Queens, PEI 3 May (ph. Dave Smith) made just the 6th documented record for the province; the species is more regular in New



A rare spring visitor to the Canadian Maritime Provinces, this Scissor-tailed Flycatcher turned up at Albert, New Brunswick 2 May 2012. Photograph by Sybil Wentzell.

SA There was an exceptional fallout of migrants 24 Apr in the s. portion of the Region (Table 2). The event was detected mostly along the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia from Halifax s. to Cape Sable I., with Lunenburg having a large portion of the records. New Brunswick experienced the fallout only at Machias Seal Island. Some birds wandered after the arrival, accounting for a few records elsewhere in the Maritimes on subsequent days. Indigo Buntings were widespread, but many other species were detected in very high numbers. In Table 2, the counts for the comparable fallout of 21 Apr 1991 are provided. I am of the opinion that the 1991 event was likely much larger but not monitored as well. Of greater interest is the striking similarity in the species composition and proportions between the two events in Nova Scotia. In 2012, as in 1991, a few birds wandered subsequently, with sightings from Prince Edward Island, St. Pierre, and Newfoundland.

Table 2. Passerines recorded in fallouts of April 2012 and April 1991 in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Species/Province	24-26 Apr 2012 event		21 Apr 1991 event	
	NS	NB	NS	NB
Red-eyed Vireo	1			
Veery		24		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	1		
Swainson's/Gray-cheeked Thrush		3		
Gray Catbird	4			
Brown Thrasher	1	1		
Ovenbird	1	2		
Worm-eating Warbler			1	
Prothonotary Warbler	2			
Hooded Warbler			1	
Yellow-throated Warbler	1			
Summer Tanager	3		1	
Scarlet Tanager	4		17	several
Eastern Towhee	1			
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	60+	6	many	many
Blue Grosbeak	30+	24	35+	6
Indigo Bunting	100+	12	125+	100+
Baltimore Oriole	7		dozens	

Note: All New Brunswick records from Apr 2012 are from Machias Seal Island (REI).

Brunswick, where 3 were seen on dates spanning 9-17 May. A young male Summer Tanager was in St. Pierre 12-14 May (JD, LJ, PH), the French islands' 9th record, 4th in spring. St. Pierre also enjoyed single Scarlet Tanagers 13-15 (LJ, JD, PH) & 30 May (LJ).

A Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow that overwintered on Prince Edward Island provided one of only a few records for the province (ph. Greg Feetham, m.ob.). A male Blue Grosbeak in St. Pierre 13-19 May (JD, LJ) and a female there 21-23 May (JD) were possibly connected to the Apr fallout; there are about 10 previous records for the French islands. Newfoundland had four widely separated reports of Indigo Bunting between 30 Apr and 22 May; 3 were reported in Prince Edward Island between 26 Apr and 4 May; and 3 were in St. Pierre 19-21 May; many were likely survivors of the mainland fallout. Making about the 15th provincial record, a male Painted Bunting at a Gagetown, NB feeder 4-6 May (ph. Helen Al-

linson et al.) may have been connected to the fallout as well. A male European Goldfinch photographed at a feeder in Sherbrooke, Guysborough, NS 7-9 May was presumed to be an escapee (*fide* Randy Lauff), as was a female European Greenfinch at a Germantown, Albert feeder 12 May (Woody & Jennifer Gillies, ph.), the 3rd for New Brunswick.

Contributors (subregional editors in bold-face): **John Belbin**, Patrick Boez, Dave Brown, Jared Clarke, Ray Cooke, Joël Detcheverry, Ron D'Entremont, Ralph Eldridge (REI), **Roger Etcheberry** (REI; St. Pierre), Patrick Hacala, Carl Haycock, James Hirtle, Laurent Jackman, Dan McAskill, Ken McKenna, Ian McLaren, **Eric Mills**, Susann Myers, Dwaine Oakley, **David Seeler** (DS; Prince Edward Island), David Shepard (DSh). ☺

Blake Maybank, 144 Bayview Drive, White's Lake, Nova Scotia B3T 1Z1, (maybank@ns.sympatico.ca)

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS

*	specimen collected
+	bird(s) seen through end of period
†	written details on file
A.F.B.	Air Force Base
acc.	accepted by records committee
A.R.C.	Avian Records Committee
b.	banded
B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey
B.O.	Bird Observatory
B.R.C.	Bird Records Committee
C.A.	Conservation Area
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count
C.P.	County Park
cm	centimeter(s)
Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
G.C.	Golf Course
G.P.	Game Preserve
Hwy.	Highway
I. (Is.)	Island(s), Isle(s)
imm. (imms.)	immature(s)
Jct.	Junction
juv. (juvs.)	juvenile [plumage]; juvenile(s)
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mm	millimeter(s)
m.ob.	many (or multiple) observers
Mt. (Mts.)	Mount/Mountain (Mountains)
N.A.	Nature Area, Natural Area
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.S.	National Seashore
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
p.a.	pending acceptance
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
ph.	photographed (by + initials)
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
R.A.	Recreation(al) Area
R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert
R.P.	Regional Park
R.S.	Regional Shoreline
Res.	Reservoir
Rte.	Route
S.B.	State Beach
S.F.	State Forest
S.G.A.	State Game Area
S.P.	State Park
S.R.A.	State Recreation Area
S.R.	State Reserve
S.W.A.	State Wildlife Area
S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant/Pond
subad. (subads.)	subadult(s)
Twp.	Township
v.r.	voice recording (by + initials)
vt.	videotape (by + initials)
W.A.	Wildlife Area
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste)water Treatment Plant/Pond

Italics indicate name of county, parish, or municipality.



**Pierre Bannon
Olivier Barden
Normand David
Samuel Denault**

Overall, spring temperatures were above normal all across the Region, fluctuating between 3° C above in southern Québec to 1° C above in extreme northern Québec. March was the warmest month, with anomalies of 5° C from Abitibi to the Eastern Townships, including Montréal. Between 18 and 23 March, a heat wave unprecedented in its intensity, duration, and extent affected western, central, and southern Québec as well as areas to the east, west, and south of the Region. On 21 March, the temperature exceeded 25° C in many places, with a maximum of 27.3° C in the Témiscamingue region, which corresponds to anomalies near 25° in many areas. Even in a region as far north as Chibougamau, the maximum temperature reached 22° C. Many new temperature records were established, some exceeding the previous records by several degrees. The month of April experienced temperatures closer to normal, but May was warm again, warmer than April on average. On the other hand, precipitation was below normal in the south and slightly above normal in the north.

As a result of this exceptional spring weather, most birds arrived early and nested early. Numerous record-early dates were established.

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

A record-early Pink-footed Goose at Saint-Romuald 18 Mar (OB) made the 20th record for the Region. Six Barnacle Geese were reported, an above-normal total, from Chambly 21 Mar (R. Belhumeur), Baie-du-Febvre 1-14 Apr (P. Otis et al.), Victoriaville 18 Apr-7 May (CR

et al.), Duhamel 12 May (D. & L. Perrier), Cap-Chat 18 May (A. Maltais), and Lac-Labrie 26-30 May, a first record for the North Shore (R. Du et al.). A single Mute Swan appeared at Sainte-Clothilde-de-Châteauguay 25 Apr and remained for the rest of the season (Y. Demers, J. Higgins); one also visited Yamaska Park 26 May (R. Gagné, D. Brunelle). A Trumpeter Swan at Malartic 12 Apr was record early (F. Vachon), while 5 at Arntfield 19 Apr represented a record number for the Region (J. Gagnon, I. Dorion). Two Tundra Swans showed up at Beauport 25 Mar (R. Bélanger). Only 5 Eurasian Wigeons were reported, down from 12 last spring. The same was true for the Eurasian Teal, with only 3 birds reported compared to 7 last spring. A pair of Canvasbacks was at Saint-Eustache 29 Apr (A. Robert, C. Sauvageau). Rare in Abitibi, a Barrow's Goldeneye was at Val d'Or 29-30 Apr (C. Siano et al.). A group of 17 Gray Partridges at Rivière-Ouelle 10 Mar was noteworthy (CA, CG). A Wild Turkey at Saint-Onésime-d'Ixworth 13 May (JF. Rousseau) probably provided the easternmost record in the Region.

At Rivière-Ouelle, numbers of Red-throated Loon maxed out at 7644 on 12 May (CG, CA). A rarity in spring, an ad. Pacific Loon in breeding plumage was photographed at Pointe-des-Monts 29 May (RG). Single American White Pelicans were spotted at Jonquières 20 May (PL. Fortier, J. Roy) and at Saint-Fulgence 24 May (GS, C. Cormier), while a group of 3 was photographed on L. Saint-Pierre 19 May (P. Roy). A Least Bittern at Rimouski 18-19 May was worthy of note (RP, J. McKindsey). A Great Egret at Verdun 16 Mar (S. Teasdale) provided a new Regional record early date. A Little Egret in breeding plumage was nicely photographed at Listuguj, Gaspé Pen. 22 May (J. Murvin Vicaire), the 2nd record for the Region. The first record dates back to 1980. Single Snowy Egrets showed up at La Martinique in the Magdalen Is. 15-31 May (DG. Gaudet, CA. Gaudet, H. Tremblay) and at the Montmorency falls, Québec City 28 May (E. Desfossé-Foucault). Single Little Blue Herons were reported at Haldimand 13 May (P. Fallu, N. Mercier) and at Hudson 21 May (W. Grubert et al.). A Tricolored Heron appeared at Cap Tourmente 20 May (D. Campeau et al.), while a Cattle Egret stopped at Île Bizard 21 May (S. Lasalle). Two Black-crowned Night-Herons at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 11 Mar were record early (F. Boulet). Single Glossy Ibis turned up at Cabano 25 Apr (C. Courbron), Havre-Aubert 2 May (G. Chiasson, *fide* S. Cyr), and Douglastown 31 May (G. Turcotte).

RAPTORS THROUGH DOVES

An Osprey at Masson 18 Mar (L. Chénier) was

very early. A Swainson's Hawk was reported at Rigaud 25 Apr (G. Huot, J. Cadieux); an imm. was photographed at the Saint-Fabien hawkwatch 19 May (D. Desjardins). Excellent numbers of migrating eagles were reported w. of Montréal. At Valleyfield, hawkwatchers broke the 200 mark for the first time, with 84 Balds and 123 Golden, plus 7 unidentified eagles. Between 17 and 21 Mar alone, 90 eagles were tallied. It is hard to believe that a total eagle count in the early days of the Valleyfield spring hawkwatch would be around just 10 birds (B. Barnhurst, M. McIntosh). A little farther w. at Godmanchester, 23 Golden were tallied 18 Mar (SD, FM, D. Daigneault).

Again this year, a new Regional record-early date was established for the Sandhill Crane at Dundee, where a bird was seen 11 Mar (P. Laniel). Two chicks hatched at this location 5 May, a very early date (J. De Marre). Four Piping Plovers at Fatima in the Magdalen Is. 11 Apr (AR) were record early by a week. Single Willets stopped at Pointe-des-Cascades 20 May (A. Quenneville et al.) and at Pointe Yamachiche 31 May (AM, JG). A female Ruff showed up at Saint-Barthélemy 4 May (Y. Gauthier) followed by a male at Rimouski 15 May (G. Proulx, JM. Turgeon). Rarer now than a decade ago, single Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at Roberval 26 May (J. Rousseau, C. Bellemare et al.), at Grande-Rivière 21 May (DM), and at Bonaventure 29 May (B. Arsenault). A well-described Red-necked Phalarope at Chambly 21 Apr (L. Cournoyer et al.) was record early by nearly two weeks.

Single Black-headed Gulls were at Cabano 13 May (M. Beaulieu) and at Tadoussac 20 May (RP et al.). Single ad. Laughing Gulls appearing at Baie-du-Febvre 14 Apr (A. Daigle et al.) and at L'Isle-Verte 16 Apr (AA) were early. A Franklin's Gull was at La Malbaie 30 May (RG, J. Forgues). A presumed Great Black-backed Gull x Glaucous Gull hybrid was studied at Pointe-au-Père 6 Mar (AA, H. Johansen). Parasitic Jaegers were well in evidence this spring, with counts of 46 at Rivière-Ouelle 27 May (CA, CG) and 35 at Tadoussac 30 May (RP). Four Eurasian Collared-Doves were still at Sainte-Brigide d'Iberville 11 Mar, while singles were reported at Sainte-Félicité 12 Mar (JD), at Nicolet 27 Mar (J. Bélanger, Y. Dugré), and at Lorrainville 20-22 Apr (L. Dubé, *fide* J. Fréchette).

OWLS THROUGH THRUSHES

Northbound Snowy Owls were in evidence at Saint-Clet 17 Mar, with a high count of 20 (M. Dennis). A Boreal Owl heard at Armstrong 13 Apr (Zec Jaro) was only the 2nd record for *Beauce-Appalaches* and the first to hint at possible breeding on the s. shore of the St. Law-

rence R., despite the lack of an irruption last winter (N. Jolin, P. Rodrigue). Seldom recorded on the Gaspé Pen., an Eastern Whip-poor-will was seen and heard at Gaspé 21-27 May (S. Marchand). Three Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported 16 Apr when temperatures rose to 30° C, establishing a record-early date: at Hudson (R. Stanford), Mansonville (T. Beauchemin), and Beaulac-Garthby (P. Lavoie). The Lac-Simon Red-headed Woodpecker was seen through 15 Mar (J. Martel et al.), while additional singles were at Baie d'Urfé 23 May (ph. M. Beauchamp, *fide* BM) and Aylmer 19 May (RDe). Probably one of the northernmost Red-bellied Woodpeckers ever reported in the Region appeared at Lac-Labrie 26 May (ph., RDU). Very rare in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, a Red-bellied was at Évain 26 Jan–5 Feb (J. Bélanger).

Record-early arrivals were recorded for the following species: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at the Mount-Royal Cemetery 21 Mar (E. Samson), Willow Flycatcher at Dundee 5 May (DJ. Léandri-Breton), and Eastern Phoebe at Plaisance 12 Mar (R. Schryer). A Say's Phoebe was documented at Saint-Pacôme 6 May (ph. T. Bateau), the 3rd spring record for the Québec City region. Exceptional on the North Shore and unrecorded in several decades, a Loggerhead Shrike was photographed at Pointe-des-Monts 27 May (RG). The spring's only White-eyed Vireo was seen in Gatineau Park 29 May (RDe). A calling Fish Crow was well described at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 20 Apr (BM, S. Duval). This would represent a first provincial record, following a wave of records in the L. Ontario region this spring.

A Bank Swallow at Plaisance 11 Apr established a record-early date (RL. Dubois, D. Dallaire). Unseasonable weather likely prompted a pair of Brown Creepers to initiate nest-building at Île des Soeurs 22 Mar (PB). Nowadays a very rare breeder in the province, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher pair was building a nest at Dundee 18 May (D. & S. Harvey). Two Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Granby 18 Mar were very early (S. Labbé). A migrant Northern Wheatear was intercepted at Radisson 27 May (C. Vallières, FM). A Townsend's Solitaire stopped by Tadoussac 6 Mar (M. Moisan). Very rarely reported in Mar, a wintering Hermit Thrush was spotted at Pointe-Claire 7 Mar (J. Tremblay); another at Québec City 20 Mar



This adult male Bullock's Oriole at Saint-Pacôme 21-26 (here 26) April 2012 represented the first spring record for Québec. Most probably the same individual had been seen 18 April at Pohénégamook, 55 kilometers to the east. Photograph by Jean-François Rousseau.

could potentially have been a record-early arrival (B. Tremblay). A Varied Thrush briefly paused at Pont Rouge 1 Apr (F. & R. Dion).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Yellow-throated Warblers were reported at Pointe-au-Chêne 9 May (F. Morand) and at Amos 19 May, a first for Abitibi-Témiscamingue (ph. S. Lavallée). A Prairie Warbler was seen at Cap Tourmente 25 May (M. Raymond, P. Lane). A Black-and-white Warbler at Cowansville 2 Apr (G. Poirier) was record early. A Prothonotary Warbler at Yamachiche 18 May (ph. AM, JG) was one of very few females documented in the province. A Louisiana Waterthrush in breeding habitat at Wakefield (Gatineau Park) 20 May (C. Savignac) did not linger. A Connecticut Warbler was heard singing at Summit Park 19 May (D. Myburgh). A female Spotted Towhee present since 30 Sep 2011 at Sept-Îles was last seen 3 May (JE. Brassard, ph. B. Duchesne). A Swamp Sparrow at Dundee 25 Mar (D. Collins) was early. The Mont-Saint-Grégoire Harris's Sparrow continued until 15 Mar (m.ob.), while others were reported at Saint-Henri-de-Lévis 3 May (F. Chouinard) and at Bic 24 May (ph., F. Viau, J. Beaulieu).

A male Summer Tanager at l'Anse-à-Beaufils 18-22 Apr (M. Cyr, ph. A. Couture) was record early, while another was at Girardville, Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean 6 May (R. Saint-Gelais). A Western Tanager graced Lascelles, Outaouais 3-5 May (M. Labelle et al.). It was an excellent spring for Blue Grosbeaks, with a male at Pointe-au-Père 9-11 May (ph. B. Poirier),

single females at Bic 8-12 May (N. Charest) and at Lavernière, Magdalen Is. 15-16 May (B. Vigneault, AR), and a male at Mont-Joli 22 May (*fide* G. Bélisle-Couture). As is often the case in maritime Canada, Indigo Buntings made a good showing parallel to the multiple Blue Grosbeaks. A dozen were reported on the Gaspé Pen. alone from 22 Apr onward (*fide* PP).

Single ad. male Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Bic 19 Apr (RP, L. Masson, J. Veillette), Saint-Félicien 1 May (S. Boivin), Saint-Pierre-les-Becquets 16 May (J. Robitaille), and Sainte-Félicité 19 May (JD). The spring's only Orchard Oriole was at Grande-Rivière 28 May (DM). An ad. male Bullock's Oriole at feeders in Pohénégamook 18 Apr (F. Levasseur, *fide* J. Larivée) represented a first spring record and 5th overall. Shockingly, what was most likely the same bird, based

on study of photographs, showed up 55 km away at Saint-Pacôme 21-26 Apr (A. Lavoie et al.). European Goldfinches were seen widely, from Val d'Or (2 birds 31 Mar; P. Trudel) to La Martre (3 May; P. Vallée); no birds of the *caniceps* group were reported. Faded plumage of a European Greenfinch at Matapédia 5-9 Apr (P. Beaupré, P. Dufour) was suggestive of captive provenance.

Contributors (subregional editors in bold-face): Alexandre Antil, Claude Auchu, **Pierre Bannon** (Montréal), **Alain Beauchamp** (Beauce-Appalaches), **Monique Berlinguette** (Haute-Yamaska), **Gérard Cyr** (Québec City), Jacques Deschênes, Robert Desramaux, Rosemonde Duguay, Jacques Gélinas, Robin Gingras, Christiane Girard, **Louis Imbeau** (Abitibi), **Louise Lefebvre** (Lower-St. Lawrence), Alain Maire, Barbara McDuff, Daniel Mercier, François Morneau, Rosaire Pelletier, Renaud Pintiaux, **Pierre Poulin** (Gaspésie), **Alain Richard** (Magdalen Is.), **Claude Roy** (Bois-Francis), **Germain Savard** (Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean), **Daniel Toussaint** (Outaouais). 🐦

Pierre Bannon, 1517 Leprohon, Montréal, Québec H4E 1P1, (pbannon@videotron.ca)

Olivier Barden, 120 avenue Le Gardeur, Apt. 5, Baie-Comeau, Québec G4Z 1E9, (iridosornis@gmail.com)

Normand David, 53 Hasting, App. 202, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Québec H9G 3C4, (normanddavid@videotron.ca)

Samuel Denault, 75 Beauchemin, Saint-Basile-le-Grand, Québec J3N 1J6, (spdenault@gmail.com)

New England



Mark S. Szantyr

A mild and snowless winter, especially in the shadow of a very eventful and mild fall season, rapidly bloomed into what had all the earmarks of an early spring season. Near-drought conditions due to the lack of winter snows and very sporadic rain was alleviated, as the season progressed, by several lows that brought rain and winds to the Region. March 2012 was the second warmest March ever recorded in Massachusetts, with Boston baking at 83° F on 22 March. Snowfall totals were less than an inch for the month, where three feet is closer to the norm. April was likewise the second warmest on record and also rather dry, with only about 5 cm of rain measured in Boston. May, by contrast, had normal precipitation and started out rather cool, with lows on the coast in the 40° range for the first week. Beginning 9 May, however, the warming trend returned, and at the end of the month, western Massachusetts had severe thunderstorms.

The warm conditions and early blooms and leaf-out were accompanied by early ar-

rivals across the Region in March, including incredibly early Osprey, Killdeer, American Woodcock, Tree Swallow, and Pine Warbler, plus a few Lesser Yellowlegs and Northern Rough-winged Swallows as far north as Massachusetts. In early April, there was a lag, then another surge in mid- to late April during a warm-up. On the first of May, cool weather, rain, and northwesterly winds returned for four days, and the push of some migrant species actually fell behind average; wintering birds, such as White-throated Sparrow in southern New England, were still widespread through early May. During the next warm spell, 5-7 May, the first push of long-distance Neotropical migrants occurred, with another big push mid-month.

This pattern, with earlier migrants arriving especially early but later migrants on time or a bit belated, is familiar from seasons past. Nevertheless, the many very early first arrival dates for diverse cohorts of migrants—including Louisiana Waterthrush, Baltimore Oriole, Swainson's Thrush, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Mourning Warbler—appear to indicate that the timing of spring migration is shifting toward earlier and earlier arrivals overall, as witnessed in regions to our south as well. Complicating matters were verified records of many half-hardy species successfully overwintering as far north as Massachusetts, among them Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and both dowitcher species, and so some apparently “early” birds could well have been wintering in the Region or not far from it.

I thank Marjorie Rines, Seth Kellogg, and Bob Stymeist for compilation and interpretation of Massachusetts records and Marshall J. Iliff for contributing the Special Attention feature on hummingbird migrants.

Abbreviations: L. Champlain (Vermont side of L. Champlain); Nantucket (Nantucket

L., MA); Plum I. (Newburyport, Newbury, Rowley, Ipswich, including Parker River N WR., Essex, MA); Tuckernuck (Tuckernuck I., Nantucket, MA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBISES

Perhaps due to the warm conditions and a general presence of widespread open water during the season, waterfowl observations lacked great concentrations and were scattered over the Region. Migrants were through and gone very early. The warm weather did make for a few notable goose observations, as grazing fields were snow-free. Following a winter with multiple **Pink-footed Geese** in Connecticut, another was discovered at South Windsor 3-9 Mar (PCi). Greater White-fronted Geese were reported in lower-than-average numbers across the Region; Massachusetts had just one, at Gill 7 Mar (J. Smith). With more observers confident in the details of identification, it was again a good season for Cackling Geese; the largest single flock was of 9 birds at Jamestown, RI 9 Mar (TA). Two **Trumpeter Swans** returned to a small, suburban pond in Woodbridge, CT and were present until at least 15 Mar (*vide* GH). These birds, neither tagged nor banded, were observed exhibiting courtship behavior and defending their territory from Mute Swans. Connecticut reported the only Tundra Swans, with a total of 5 birds from three locations.

Most dabbling ducks were reported in normal numbers, with perhaps a few more Northern Shovelers than usual. Eight Eurasian Teal were reported across New England, from Maine, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, the same total as spring 2011. A Green-winged x Eurasian cross was at Milford, CT 3 Mar (NB). A male Tufted Duck was notable at Franklin, VT 10 Apr (B. Butler, TM, A. Spears). Also in Vermont, a mixed flock of about 1000 Greater and Lesser Scaup was at Addison 4 Mar (TM, F. Sutti). Connecticut reported 5 Redheads for the season (*vide* GH), while Massachusetts had 10. The high count of Harlequin Duck, 49, came from Sachuest Pt., RI 25 Mar (B. Larson); 33 were at North Scituate, MA 13 Mar (P. O'Neill). Massachusetts recorded 7 Barrow's Goldeneyes, all in Mar.

Spring reports of Pacific Loon, many with details, came from Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. In Rhode Island, singles were at Block I. 23 Mar (J. Magill) and at Napatree Pt., Westerly 4 & 25 Apr (CR). One was well photographed from the Cliff House, Ogunquit, ME 13 Mar (DL). Massachusetts had singles at Salisbury Beach, Essex 5-17 Mar (ph.



Photographed at some distance from the Cliff House at Ogunquit, Maine, this Pacific Loon (front, just left of center) was nicely documented 13 March 2012. *Photograph by Derek Lovitch.*

SA From Massachusetts came interesting news on White-faced Ibis. Researchers on Kettle I. were conducting a heron census 19 May when they located a **White-faced Ibis** tending one of two nests (SP, RS, JO, JT, C. Gibson). The actual nest it was tending could not be determined. On 27 May, 2 White-faceds were observed there, again one of them associated with one of two nests. While intriguing and certainly suggestive of breeding, many questions are left unanswered, including exactly how many White-faced Ibis were present, and if nesting, with what species they were breeding.

A White-faced Ibis seen at Rowley 1-9 May (m.ob.) could have been one of the Kettle I. birds. In Maine, a second-year White-faced was at Scarborough Marsh 13 Apr; and a third-year bird appeared there 27 Apr, which was seen with an ad. there 6 May (DL, M. Freiberg, LS, DH, LB). Connecticut had singles at Guilford 19 Apr (J. Mehmel) and Westport 15 May (TG, FM), while Rhode Islanders enjoyed one at South Kingston 22-25 Apr (L. Bostrom, m.ob.).

E. Labato, m.ob.), Provincetown 17 Mar (LS), North Truro 25 Mar (BN), and Marshfield 14 Apr (E. Dalton). The bird at Salisbury Beach had a deformed bill and was the same bird seen in New Hampshire in winter, ca. 30 km away. Open water inland allowed good numbers of Horned Grebes to be reported from the L. Champlain waterfront, with the high count of 63 from Charlotte Town Beach, VT 10 Mar (TM). A Western Grebe was at Narragansett, RI 8-15 Apr (m.ob., *fide* RF). For the 8th year in a row, a Red-billed Tropicbird returned to Seal Island N.W.R. off the coast of Maine. A Brown Pelican appeared at Chatham, MA 17 May (M. Faherty).

On 4 May, an egret showing long head plumes like those shown by Little Egret but otherwise looking like a typical Snowy Egret was found at McKinney N.W.R., Stratford, CT (ph. FM), apparently a Little Egret x Snowy Egret hybrid. Similar birds have been photographed in Connecticut at Madison and Norwalk. Single Tricolored Herons were at Scarborough Marsh, ME 24 Apr (DL) and at East Hartford, CT 11 May (*fide* GH). There were 13 reports of Cattle Egret in the Region

this season, with at least 8 birds in Massachusetts alone. Nantucket had a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 25 Apr (E. Ray), and others were at South Dartmouth, MA 25 May (A. Morgan) and Plum I. 11 May and later (m.ob.).

VULTURES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Rhode Island's 13 Black Vultures this season, plus two dozen or more in Massachusetts, make it difficult to believe this species was rather rare in the Region not all that long ago. A Swallow-tailed Kite was at West Kingston, RI 26 Apr (ID), with another reported at South Kingston the same day (C. Miller), and Massachusetts had a single out on Nantucket 31 May (ph. K. Griswold, ph. VL). In the Nutmeg State, a Swallow-tailed was seen over Willimantic 12-16 May (*fide* CE). Three Mississippi Kites passed the Bradbury Mt. hawkwatch, ME 15 May (DL), and 4 were reported in Connecticut: one crossing I-395 at Norwich 24 Apr (MS), one at Granby 5 May (J. Weeks), one at Branford 18 May (G. Nichol et al.), and one near the site of the only documented Connecticut nesting at Simsbury 26 May (PW). Massachusetts produced one Mississippi at the Pilgrim Heights, North Truro hawkwatch 7 May (D. Manchester). An injured Golden Eagle fitted with a transmitter was tracked last spring to Québec. The signal was lost, then recovered, when the bird returned in late Feb 2012 to the Amenia, NY area; it was tracked in our Region over Sharon, CT 1 Mar (*fide* GH). Another Golden was reported on the very late date of 13 May over Litchfield (M. Doyle, *fide* FM). Massa-

SA In summer 2011, 3 birds reported as juv. Tricolored Herons frequented Hammonasset Beach S.P., Madison, CT. Closer observation showed that these birds were likely **Tricolored Heron x Little Blue Heron** hybrids. At least 2 returned to the state park in spring 2012. Details of structure, plumage, soft tissue, and molt appear to indicate hybrids. Many photographs of these birds, along with video and audio recordings, are still under study. It was apparent this season that the birds were molting in an all-dark belly while still showing varying amounts of white in the throat and the neck, very suggestive of hybrid derivation. This cross has apparently not been documented previously.

chusetts birders found Golden Eagles 11 Mar at Hadley (G. d'Entremont), 1 Apr at Long I., Boston (R. Donovan), and 23 Apr at Amherst (A. Magee).

Notable reports of Clapper Rail in Massachusetts came from Osterville 3 Mar (JT) and Eastham 11 & 10 Apr (BN), and a Clapper/King Rail was at Harwichport 26 Apr-17 May (BN). Northerly Common Gallinules turned up at Lenox, MA 18 Apr (G. Hurley) and at Longmeadow, MA 5 May (C. Suprenant), fewer than last spring. Sandhill Cranes continue their slow, steady increase in the Region. Two were at South Kingston, RI Apr (L. Gardel). In Connecticut, 6 were reported on 2 Mar and 3 through 6 Mar at Canaan, which is near a location at the Massachusetts border where breeding has been recently confirmed (*fide* GH). Another Sandhill Crane was at Rocky Hill, CT 15 May (R. Acker). Massachusetts had six reports of cranes in Mar/Apr, probably involving 7 birds, plus three reports in May totaling 5 birds.

Small numbers of American Golden-Plovers were seen in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, and a golden-plover resembling a European flew over Long Beach, Stratford, CT 15 May (FM). A Wilson's Plover was discovered on Martha's Vineyard, MA 18 May by a Piping Plover warden (ph. L. Johnson; *fide* L. McDowell). Greater-than-normal numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers were reported from Rhode Island, with a maximum of 12 at Westerly 31 May (TA). A Ruff was at Madison, CT 15-18 May (BD), and a Curlew Sandpiper was found there 15 May by a birder looking for the Ruff (TG). A Red-necked Phalarope was discovered at Milford, CT 24 May (FG). Two Wilson's Phalaropes



One of seven noted in Atlantic coast states and provinces in spring 2012, this Ruff was at Hammonasset Beach State Park, Connecticut 15-18 (here 16) May. Photograph by Frank Mantlik.

were discovered 31 May, one at Madison, CT (R. Smiley), the other at Westerly, RI (TA). Massachusetts birders had 4 Wilson's Phalaropes at Rowley 2-4 May and one at Plum I. 27 May+ (m.ob.).

An Iceland Gull was still at North Truro, MA 31 May (BN). In recent years, numbers of Bonaparte's Gull staging in Long Island Sound in spring have declined, but this year brought an upswing, with 3300 at Southport Beach, CT 26 Mar (FM) and 5000 at Russian Beach, Stratford, CT 2 Apr (FM). At Southport, an ad. Little Gull was found 1 Apr (NB); this species has become scarce in recent years in the Region. In Connecticut, 4 Black-headed Gulls were reported for the season (*fide* GH). Caspian Terns were very well reported during the season, with a total of approximately 53 individuals. The shore of L. Champlain in Vermont had most reports (40), with a maximum count of 16 at Colchester 22 Apr (TM). Six in Massachusetts, 5 in Rhode Island, and 2 in Connecticut were the only others. Five Black Terns in Upper Narragansett Bay, RI 10 May (GD) were rare in spring for the state; 15 along L. Champlain at Charlotte, VT 30 May (TM) were also notable.

A Eurasian Collared-Dove was at Charlestown, RI 14 Apr (NH). After the best flight of the species in many years, multiple Snowy Owls lingered across the Region, some into May in the n. areas; Norm Smith banded 52 in e. Massachusetts between Nov 2011 and



This young male Western Tanager was present for several weeks (here 6 March 2012) at Mystic, New London County, Connecticut. Photograph by Mark S. Szantyr.

May 2012, most of these (42) at Boston's Logan Airport. The last reported Snowy was at Provincetown, MA 27 May (J. Young). At least seven Chuck-will's-widow records came in for the season, including two in Rhode Island 7-29 May (m.ob., *fide* RF), four on Cape Cod into Jun (m.ob.), and one at Stratford Pt., CT 4 May (SK), about average. Of a handful of Eastern Whip-poor-will reports, a bird at South Kent, CT 16 Apr (J. Johnson, *fide* GH) was on the early side. Only 4 Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported this season, well below the trend of the past few springs. Red-bellied Woodpeckers continued their march northward, with increasing numbers being reported from the n. states this season.

Massachusetts's 2nd Allen's Hummingbird, an ad. male, was attracted to a feeder just after the feeder was put out by the homeowner in Dennis 24 Mar (S. McGibbon). It was critically identified in hand but found expired 26 Mar (*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard).

PASSERINES

Regionally, flycatchers were widely reported on the early side. Olive-sided Flycatchers were in Connecticut on the early dates of 5 May at West Cornwall (A. Gingert) and 6 May at Stratford (SK). Rhode Island recorded its earliest ever on 5 May at Providence (JS). Eastern Wood-Pewee and all the regular *Empidonax* were reported by the 10 May, well on the early side. A locally rare **Acadian Flycatcher** was at Moretown, VT 26 May (TM, J. Mead), making a 6th state record. An ad. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher visited Lyme, CT 12 May (DP). Connecticut reported 4 Northern Shrikes for the

spring (*fide* GH). Vireos arrived early in the Region, including Red-eyed. A White-eyed Vireo on Monhegan I., ME 16-20 May (GD, DL) was the northernmost of its species in the Region. A **Townsend's Solitaire** was at Sunny Brook S.P., Torrington, CT 7 Mar (R. Belding). Swainson's Thrush reports were likewise early, with Rhode Island reporting one at Providence 1 May (RF) and Connecticut reporting one at Milford 3 May (E. Sadowski), with multiple reports the next day (*fide* GH). A **Varied Thrush** visited a feeder at Sandwich, MA 1-28 Mar (ph.; *fide* JT).

Numerous warbler species arrived early at the start of Apr, notably Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Black-and-white, Yellow, Black-throated Blue, Prairie, and Black-throated Green Warblers; warbler migration in May was average to a bit late. Rhode Island hosted a Lawrence's Warbler at Trustom Pond 19-25 May (CP); Massachusetts had one at Belcher-town 14 May+ (L. Therrien et al.). In the Nut-

SA A century of bird study in s. New England has established that the vanguard of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds arrives in mid-Apr, with the big push of migrants coming in late Apr and early May. Rare indications of extreme early arrivals, such as Massachusetts's record-early dates of 18 Mar 1973 and 26 Mar 1969, are not well documented.

In recent years, a citizen science project (<<http://www.hummingbirds.net/map.html>>) has tracked hummingbird movements. This project has consistently reported hummingbird arrivals earlier (or *much* earlier) than the birding community, and in the incredibly warm period of early Mar 2012, that project reported hummingbirds in Connecticut 14, 19, & 20 Mar and in Massachusetts 15 & 23 Mar. None of the early birds were documented in any way, and birders did not observe Ruby-throateds in those states until 21 Apr (Connecticut) and 24 Apr (Massachusetts), typical or even slightly late for first arrivals.

Unfortunately, the owner of the website is not willing to follow up with requests for details or documentation of these exceptional reports. Could these unvetted reports be accurate, or are non-birders mistaking large insects for arriving hummers? If Ruby-throateds are on the move that early, could these be birds that overwintered in North Carolina or other e. states? Is this website capturing information on hummingbird migration better than eBird and the listserves? Its 4500 reports suggest not, as that number is similar to the counts provided by eBird users in the same area—but perhaps the hummingbirds.net group is more focused on backyard flowers and feeders? Could northbound Rufous or other w. species, which often arrive in breeding areas in Mar, be responsible for early hummingbird reports in the Region? Or were the undocumented birds perhaps Ruby-throateds? Two data points from this spring suggest both scenarios are plausible: a Ruby-throated was photographed in Illinois in late Mar; and the 24 Mar Allen's Hummingbird in Massachusetts. Perhaps multiple species are in fact moving northward in very early spring.



Spring of 2012 was not a very productive season for most "southern" warbler species in New England, but this Hooded Warbler made it north to Biddeford Pool, Maine on 24 April. Photograph by Jeannette Lovitch.



One of about 35 found in New England in spring 2012, this Blue Grosbeak was the northernmost, at Biddeford Pool 24 April. Photograph by Jeannette Lovitch.

meg State, the total of 3 Lawrence's for the season was near the norm, as were 2 Yellow-throated Warblers, including a bird that stayed from the winter season (*vide* GH). A Yellow-throated visited Miantonomi Park, Newport, RI 29 Apr (K. Rogers); another was out of place at high elevation at Washington, MA 12 May (ph. P. Crossen). Massachusetts had the lion's share of Prothonotary Warblers, 5 birds 19 Apr–19 May. One was at Lyme, CT 4 May (PC) and another at Newport, RI 26 Apr–6 May (JS, m.ob.); a Prothonotary singing at Highgate 29 May furnished Vermont's 7th record (TM, A. Strong, D. Lavallee, R. Lavallee). A Mourning Warbler at Greenwich, CT 2–3 May (S. Murtha) and another 9 May at Avon (B. Toal) were surprising; this species normally arrives in mid-May or even later. Five Kentucky Warblers in Connecticut 5–23 May was well above average for recent springs (*vide* GH); 2 were in Rhode Island, one at Providence 27 Apr (J. Sweeney), the other at Newport 5 May (m.ob.). Connecticut had a record-early Louisiana Waterthrush 24 Mar at Darien (C. Bosak) as well as one well inland at West Hartford 30 Mar (PD). In Maine, single Prothonotary and Hooded Warblers turned

up 17 May on Monhegan I. (GD), and another Hooded was at Biddeford 24 Apr (DL). The **Townsend's Warbler** at Ipswich, MA was last seen 27 Mar (J. & N. Berry).

The ad. Lark Sparrow continued from the winter season at Cape Elizabeth, ME through 8 Mar (DL). Without doubt, the bird of the season was the **Black-throated Sparrow** seen and photographed 20–21 Apr on Martha's Vineyard, MA. Alerted to the bird's presence by an email from the homeowner, Vernon Laux contacted a group of birders already in the area to check the site, and the bird was still present on this, the second day of its two-day visit. The two previous Massachusetts records of this species are from Apr 1963, both from Amherst. A Seaside Sparrow found on 11 Mar at Scarborough, ME (DL) was well seen and photographed; it seems very likely that it may have wintered in this rather mild winter. Two Harris's Sparrows were recorded: a continuing first-winter bird found in Jan along a rural roadside in Lebanon, CT (A. Perko, M. Perko) remained through the 2nd week of Apr (the 11th state record but only the 3rd since 1986); and another at Monhegan I., ME 23 Mar–12 May (B. Boynton, GD). Five Clay-colored Sparrows in Massachusetts spanned 7 Mar (continuing bird in Hadley; D. Ely) through 5 May (Cummington; M. Kelly).

Seventeen or more Summer Tanagers—7 in Massachusetts, 5+ in Rhode Island, 4 in Maine, and one in Connecticut—made a very good season's tally. An imm. male Western Tanager visited a suet feeder at Peace Sanctuary, Mystic, CT 25 Feb+ (M.

Jones, G. Williams); another male was photographed at Stratford, CT 7 Apr (D. Caporaso). At least 35 Blue Grosbeaks made a very high tally for the Region. Single Dickcissels in Massachusetts were at Rockport 11 Mar (E. Nielsen), Natick 7 Apr (D. Scott), Cambridge 9–21 Apr (A. Hrycyna), Westport 12 May (m.ob.), and South Dartmouth, MA 28 May (M. Bornstein). Along with the waves of early Apr warblers, there were scattered early orioles, both Orchard and Baltimore, n. to Massachusetts. A Yellow-headed Blackbird stayed at Cumberland Farms 1–15 Apr (G. d'Entrement). Two European Goldfinches were at Hartford, CT 16 Mar (PCi).

Observers, subregional compilers (bold-face), and contributors: R. Acker, T. Auer, A.R.C.C. (A.R.C. of Connecticut), J. Berry (Massachusetts), L. Bevier, N. Bonomo, C. Bosak, L. Bostrom, B. Boynton, B. Butler, P. Cianfaglione (PCi), P. Comins, G. Dennis, P. Desjardins, I. Dewhurst, B. Dewire, M. Doyle, C. Elphick, D. Etheridge, R. Farrell (Rhode Island), D. Finizia, S. Finnegan, M. Freiberg, F. Gallo, L. Gardel, C. Gibson, T. Green, G. Hanisek (Connecticut), N. Harvey, D. Hitchcox, M. J. Iliff, J. Johnson, M. Jones, S. Krutibosch, B. Larson, V. Laux, D. Lavallee, R. Lavallee, D. Lovitch (Maine), J. Lovitch, M. Lynch, Maine Audubon Rare Bird Alert (M.A.R.B.A.), F. Mantlik, M.A.R.C. (Massachusetts A.R.C.), Massbird listserve, L. McDowell, J. Mead, C. Miller, T. Murin (Vermont), S. Murtha, G. Nichol, B. Nikula, J. Offerman, C. Pedro, B. Porter, D. Provencher, C. Raithel, M. Rines (Massachusetts), E. Sadowski, L. Seitz, R. Schain, J. St. Jean (JS), A. Spears, A. Strong, F. Sutti, M. Szantyr, J. Trimble, P. Trimble, S. Tsagarakis, D. Wheelan, G. Williams, P. Wolter. ☉

Mark S. Szantyr, 80 Bicknell Road #9, Ashford, Connecticut 06278, (Birddog55@charter.net)



Connecticut has just one colony of Boat-tailed Grackle, in the vicinity of McKinney National Wildlife Refuge in Stratford (here 30 April 2012). Photograph by Frank Mantlik.

Hudson-Delaware



Shaibal S. Mitra
Frank Rohrbacher
Robert O. Paxton

March 2012 was astonishingly warm across the Region, so much so that it is difficult to convey this weather's extremity. Mean March temperatures bested long-term averages by huge margins and actually rivaled or exceeded historical averages for April throughout the Region: +13.4° F in New York's Niagara Frontier and warmer than the historical average for April; +13.0° in New York's Genesee region, 3.5° above the previous record set in 1945; warmer than April again in New York's Susquehanna region, with record-high daily temperatures set every day from 17-23 March; +12.3° in New York's Oneida Basin region, topping the previous record by 3.9°; +12.6° in Watertown, NY; +9-12° across New York's Adirondack-Champlain region; +10.9° at Albany; +11.6° at Poughkeepsie; and an astounding +8° even at Islip, Long Island, where the maritime influence usually moderates radical swings in temperature. Throughout most of the Region, March was also very dry, but April was close to average in terms of both temperature and precipitation. May was again unusually warm and dry. Taking the three months together, spring 2012 was the warmest on record in many areas.

The mild weather of March 2012 followed directly upon an unusually warm winter season, and this prolonged period of exceptional warmth had numerous and striking impacts on bird movements. The present report focuses to a large extent on these impacts, including not only the tempo and mode of early spring migration, long known to be strongly weather-dependent, but also on the behavior of overwintering vagrant and half-hardy birds. It is becoming increasingly clear that the seasonally unusual birds in these two categories share many similarities in their mode of occurrence in our Region, and I would even go as far as to argue that our emerging understanding of these

parallels is one of the most impressive achievements of ornithological citizen science, at least in the last century. If the last statement seems a bit hyperbolic, consider that birders are the only people both interested in, and capable of measuring the occurrence of, either rare extralimital species or sparsely distributed "lingering" Neotropical migrants—both of which are increasingly exploiting the urban and suburban East as wintering grounds.

Not long ago, much of the discussion regarding these birds centered more or less on when and how the assumedly doomed individuals would perish. By now, the evidence for winter survival, and even site fidelity from year to year, has accumulated to such an extent that we would be better served to focus on how these birds respond to the onset of spring. At the sporting level, birders in the Region are recognizing that March is an increasingly productive period for detecting vagrants. At another level, the coincidence in timing between this "new" vagrancy window and the observable departure dates of overwintering half-hardies implies an underlying similarity in what these birds are doing. These parallels—which could not have been detected by any other means than intensive and extensive amateur birding effort—suggest that vagrancy is much more than misoriented migration, and that winter "lingering" is much more than failure to migrate on time. Instead, both might be examples of long-distance dispersal, in which individuals in both categories are actively testing novel wintering sites—and, in the context of a warming climate and an urbanizing, increasingly resource-rich landscape, being rewarded for their audacity.

Abbreviations: Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE); Braddock Bay (Braddock Bay B.O., Rochester, NY); Brigantine (Brigantine Unit, Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ); Cape May (Cape May, Cape May, NJ); Central Park (Central Park, New York, NY); Derby Hill (Derby Hill Hawkwatch, Oswego, NY); Hamlin Beach (Hamlin Beach S.P., Monroe, NY); Heislerville (Heislerville W.M.A., Cumberland, NJ); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Gateway National Recreation Area, Kings & Queens, NY); Jones Beach (Jones Beach S.P., Nassau, NY); Manitou (Manitou, Monroe, NY); Montezuma (Montezuma N.W.R., Seneca, NY); Moriches (Moriches Inlet, Suffolk, NY); Prime Hook (Prime Hook N.W.R. and Prime Hook W.M.A., Sussex, DE), Robert Moses S.P. (on Fire I., Suffolk, NY); Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway National Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ); Savannah (Savannah, Wayne, NY, including Montezuma W.M.A.); South Cape May Meadows (William C. & Jane D. Blair Cape

May Migratory Bird Refuge, Cape May, NJ).

WATERFOWL THROUGH PELICANS

Many observers reported an early timing to the northbound migration of many species of waterfowl, commencing in many cases before the beginning of Mar, and in some cases even concluding prior to historical dates of heaviest passage. The peak of the Snow Goose flight in w. New York was as early as 2 Mar (BPu), and this species had largely cleared n. New York by the middle of Mar (JB). To put these observations in perspective, the spring peak for this species was historically in late Mar and early Apr in these areas. Despite the generally early passage, quite a few individuals and duos of this species persisted well into May or beyond, with examples from all three states.

An ad. and 2 imm. Greater White-fronted Geese reported from Hearn's Pond Rd., Sussex, DE 1 Mar (GL) may have been the same as an ad. of this species photographed with 2 Greater White-fronted Goose x Snow Goose hybrids in the Broadkill Beach impoundment during the Cape Henlopen C.B.C. (TL). The only report of Greater White-fronted Geese from New Jersey, in Somerset, also came from 1 Mar (JE), and six reports of 9 individuals from across the breadth of New York all dated from early Mar and/or continued from winter. One of the latter divided time between Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx, NY and nearby Yonkers, Westchester and persisted through 5 May, providing another illustration that scarce wild geese can and do occur on unusual dates. There were six reports of single Ross's Geese during the first two weeks of Mar. Five were scattered across n. and w. New York, and one was in Salem, NJ 11 Mar (LS). Richardson's Cackling Geese were recorded as "widespread in low numbers" in New York's Niagara Frontier region; totaled about 56 in the Rochester, NY area; and were reported in smaller numbers to the s. and e. of these areas. At least 7 were reported from New Jersey, including a sick bird on the Raritan R. as late as 24 Apr (JC); and Delaware had singles at Hearn's Pond Rd., Sussex 1 Mar (GL) and Cods Rd. 11 Mar (BP). This spring's only Barnacle Goose was found by Rob Stone at New Hampton, Orange, NY 1-4 Mar. Trumpeter Swans continued as breeders at known sites near Savannah and at Perch River and nested this spring at Volney, Oswego, NY (MY). They were described by Mike Morgante as "becoming more regular" around Iroquois N.W.R., and a pair at Oak Orchard W.M.A., Genesee, NY attracted interest over a period of weeks from observers anticipating the Niagara Frontier's first nesting record (WW, m.ob.). A Trumpeter Swan was recorded as far s. as Ringwood S.P., Passaic, NJ 4-13 Mar (J. Muratore, m.ob.).

At least 15 Eurasian Wigeons were widely distributed across New York, and New Jersey and Delaware produced at least 3 each. Blue-winged Teal were present at Cape May from the earliest days of Mar (e.g., 2 on 2 Mar; LAM), and as many as 11 had returned to Brigantine by 15 Mar (refuge staff). Six Eurasian Teal were reported this spring, with examples from all three states. One was at Raymond Pool at Bombay Hook N.W.R. 9-20 Mar (BP); as many as 3 were at Corbin City-McNamara W.M.A., Atlantic, NJ 16 Mar (TK, TR); and New York had one continuing from winter at Rockville Centre, Nassau 4 Mar (SA, PA) and another at Cayuga Marina, Tompkins 10 Mar (*fide* HB). A Eurasian Teal x Green-winged Teal hybrid was at Goethals Bridge Pond, Richmond, NY 16 Apr (RRV). For the 2nd spring in a row, the Region recorded a Tufted Duck x scaup hybrid while failing to record a Tufted Duck. This year's hybrid was on L. Champlain, Clinton, NY 21 Apr (M. Medler). A female Hooded Merganser with 5 young at Katonah, Westchester, NY 7 May (MB) represents just the 2nd confirmed breeding in the county; the first was in 1966.

Ring-necked Pheasants in Delaware were locally notable in New Castle at Port Penn 10 Mar (FR) and at Hockessin 6 Apr (Kim Steininger). Just one report of Northern Bobwhite was received in New York, and this was from Cutchogue, Suffolk, a site where Chukar was also reported! It is quite possible that we have passed the point where we can be at all confident about the persistence of genuinely wild quail populations in New York. The only Pacific Loon reported this spring was from Derby Hill 6 May (p.a., KW), potentially the first record for this well-watched site and the entire Oneida Lake Basin region.

The venerable Eared Grebe that has spent many recent winters at Aurora, Cayuga, NY continued this spring through 24 Mar (*fide* HB). Two Eared Grebe reports on L. Ontario, separated by less than two weeks and about 30 km, were conceivably of the same individual: Hamlin Beach 8-15 May (AG, m.ob.) and Shadigee, Orleans 28 May (WDA). The only other Eared was found by Rob Fergus at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon, NJ 31 Mar, in the context of a very interesting fallout of waterbirds in interior New Jersey and New York (Table 1). Two Western Grebes continued from winter on Cayuga L. near East Shore Park, Tompkins, NY through 17 Apr (*fide* HB), and another continued from winter at Cape May through 11 Mar (Don Freiday, m.ob.).

A boat trip sse. of Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk, NY 26 May scored 54 Leach's Storm-Petrels and 11 Cory's Shearwaters but no other tubenoses (JS, AW). Meanwhile, Sooty Shearwaters were observed daily from the Long I. beaches from

their arrival 15 May at Robert Moses S.P. (PJJ) through the end of May, with a maximum count of 81 at Robert Moses S.P. 22 May (KF, SSM); New Jersey's top counts were 98 at Holgate, Ocean, NJ 21 May (JE) and 46 at Avalon, Cape May 21 May (TR), both high tallies for that state. Wilson's Storm-Petrels were observed from shore at three New Jersey and New York sites 21-26 May, with the highest count being 11 at Holgate, Ocean, NJ 21 May (JE).

Very rare in spring, especially so early in the season, a Magnificent Frigatebird at Montauk Pt., Suffolk, NY 23 Apr (PP) was thought to be storm related. Records of American White

Pelicans continue to increase in the Region, and there were two unusually early reports this spring from w. New York: Oak Orchard W.M.A. 28 Mar (ph. CM) and Chautauqua L., Chautauqua 1 Apr (ph. MK). The remainder of this spring's records were from May: 2 on Oneida L., Oneida, NY 22-23 May (m.ob.); one at Braddock Bay 24 May (LT et al.); and 6 at Thousand Acre Marsh, New Castle, DE 14-23 May (APE et al.), 5 of which visited Bombay Hook 23 May (JaB) before returning to Thousand Acre Marsh 25 May (*fide* FR). A Brown Pelican was rather early at Stone Harbor Pt., Cape May, NJ 31 Mar (RW); Delaware's first of

SA Rainy weather 30 Mar-1 Apr forced large numbers of waterfowl down onto inland lakes and reservoirs. The affected area appears to have extended from w.-cen. New Jersey through the Hudson, Delaware, and Susquehanna river valleys of s.-cen. and se. New York; e. and cen. Pennsylvania also had notable records. Many species of waterfowl were involved, but the most noteworthy in terms of local scarcity and/or date were White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Eared Grebe, and Bonaparte's Gull. The overland migration of White-winged Scoters at this seemingly very early date deserves mention. Its spring migration, as for some of the other species listed above, is unusual in beginning with a westward flight along the coast before a northward turn toward the Great Lakes. But the scoter stands out from other species taking this route (e.g., Long-tailed Duck and Red-necked Grebe) in departing significantly later, historically during mid-May. It is worth considering whether the birds observed during the present event represent early outliers, an early general movement in this meteorologically unusual season, or a broader trend toward earlier migration; although the answer can't be known in this instance, the question might focus attention on these infrequent, but fascinating, fallouts, which can occur well into mid-May in the Region.

An Eared Grebe found by Rob Fergus at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon, NJ, on the morning of 31 Mar resulted in extra observer effort there, and some notable data were obtained after Rob's morning visit (e.g., 29 Red-throated Loons). In Sullivan, NY, John Haas and colleagues were primed for such an event and applied thorough and well-informed attention to all the most likely sites in their area on 31 Mar and 1 Apr. There is little doubt that the gaudy numbers achieved in these two places were in part a consequence of intensive effort and that Regional observers might study this model with an eye toward future events. Data in the following table are drawn from Rob Fergus, John Haas, the *Kingbird* regional reports of Matt Young and Mike Bochnick, and eBird.

Table 1. Waterbirds associated with stormy weather at Spruce Run Res. in New Jersey and in interior New York counties (maximum counts from 31 March through 1 April 2012).

Species/Location	Spruce Run Res.	Westchester	Sullivan	Ulster	Cortland
White-winged Scoter	0	0	4	4	2
Long-tailed Duck	10	0	61	22	11+
Bufflehead	150	0	186	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	13	0	0
Red-throated Loon	29	56	0	0	0
Horned Grebe	3	0	18	0	0
Red-necked Grebe	0	0	3	3	4
Bonaparte's Gull	23	0	4	0	0

the season were 6 at Cape Henlopen S.P. 10 Apr (SL).

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

The trend toward early arrivals involved a very diverse array of taxa, including Least Bitterns at widely spaced Greer's Pond, DE 14 Apr (APE) and Braddock Bay 20 Apr (DT). Great Egret, a relatively hardy species that regularly remains into Jan in our Region, fared even better than usual this year. Fourteen present at Pea Patch I. 1 Mar (CPB) marked just the 3rd time the species has been recorded on this late-winter heron survey. Farther n., at Sunken Meadow S.P., Suffolk, NY, the diminution observed in early Mar from peaks of 13 or more during Feb was regarded by local observers as a spring departure rather than as indication of mortality or southward withdrawal (NK et al.). Three Little Blue Herons continued a trend of increasing occurrence in upstate New York, at Clifton Park, Saratoga 9 May (ph. J. Hershey et al.), Sapsucker Woods, Tompkins 17 Apr (CW), and Buffalo, Erie 28 May (C. Hollister). The last of these made the first record for the Niagara Frontier region since 2008.

An imm. White Ibis was along Stone Harbor Causeway, Cape May, NJ 30 Apr (Stuart & Wendy Malmid, m.ob.); an ad. was at Prime Hook 31 May (*vide* FR). White-faced Ibis were recorded at four sites in Cape May 13 Apr–10 May (BF, m.ob.); at least 2 were at Heislerville 2–3 May (CV, m.ob.), among many reports of singles there 16 Apr–14 May; and singles were found in New York at Jamaica Bay 22 Apr–26 May (SS, m.ob.) and East Hampton, Suffolk 13 (P.J.L., SSM) & 28 May (A. Collerton). The last of these represented the long-anticipated first record for intensively birded Suffolk. Reports from n. and w. New York included many references to the ongoing expansion of Black Vultures in these areas. For instance, no fewer than 22 were tallied in the Rochester, Monroe area



Illustrative of the species' rapid increase in the East, these Sandhill Cranes stopped in at Glasgow, Delaware 28 April 2012. Photograph by Mike C. Moore.

(RS), and the pace of reports around Lewiston, Niagara has prompted expectations that nesting will be confirmed soon (MM). Three Swainson's Hawks passed Derby Hill this spring, on 2 Apr, 2 May, and 9 May (BPu, m.ob.). Two Swallow-tailed Kites were recorded in Delaware, at Angola Neck 4 May (EC) and along Prime Hook Beach Rd. 13 May (A. Gonzon). At least 5 were recorded in New Jersey, including singles at Cape May on 26 Mar, 8 Apr, and 27 Apr (m.ob.); one at Garret Mt., Passaic 21 Apr (LS et al.); and one at Sandy Hook 10 May (TB et al.). Swallow-tailed Kites at the Hamburg, Erie, NY hawkwatch 2 May (B. Chilton, J. Landau, S. Sisti) and at Derby Hill 4 May (BPu et al.) made just the 2nd and 3rd records, respectively, for New York's Niagara Frontier and Genesee regions. Somewhat less rare on Long I., singles were still notable at Prospect Park, Kings 19 Apr (RA) and Jamaica Bay 27 May (ph. R. Woodford). The spectacular recent expansion of Mississippi Kites into the Region has reached the point where a quarterly report like the present one can afford only a brief state-by-

state summary. There were at least eight reports from Delaware (*vide* FR); at least 11 reports from New Jersey, with as many as 3 present at Sandy Hook 13 & 28 May (SB et al.); and no fewer than five reports from New York.

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

Black Rail went unreported in New York and New Jersey, the sole report of the spring was of a single singing bird at Milford Neck W.M.A., DE 19 May (Holly Merker, Brian Henderson). A Common Gallinule remained at a small pond in Middletown, New Castle DE through at least 3 Mar (MP). Others at Montezuma on 28 Mar (DD) and at Iroquois N.W.R., Genesee/Orleans, NY 5 Apr (CM) were either survivors of this exceptionally mild winter or else extraordinarily early arrivals, far ahead of other early reports from around the Region, e.g., 3 at Augustine Beach W.A., DE 14 Apr (APE) and 9 in New York's Niagara Frontier 15 Apr, the latter a record tally for the Buffalo Ornithological Society's April Count. Once again, Sandhill Cranes were numerous and widespread, with 63 reports in the New York's Genesee region alone, 30+ in the Niagara Frontier, and 11 at Derby Hill 11 Mar–9 May. The accretion of data in recent years is revealing the timing of spring movements in the Region, 2 record-early near Rochester 2 Mar, the above-mentioned arrival at Derby Hill 11 Mar, 2 at Iroquois N.W.R. 17 Mar, and 2 at Liberty Marsh, Orange, NY 19 Mar. Breeding was confirmed again at Savannah and suspected at several other sites in w. and cen. New York.

An imm. Black-necked Stilt wintered at Bombay Hook through at least 11 Mar (M. Kasprzak, S. Modia). Three arrived at Prime Hook 31 Mar (FR), where the season's max grew to 32 on 29 Apr (BGP). Four New Jersey records were all in May, and all were singles except for 4 at Heislerville 17 May. The only



Jamaica Bay, in southwestern Long Island, remains one of the best places in the Hudson-Delaware region to find White-faced Ibis. This individual (right) was found by Steve Schellenger on 22 April 2012 and remained for more than a month (here 25 April). Photograph by S. S. Mitra.

New York record was one at Jones Beach 29 May (BB). The only American Avocets n. of Delaware were one at Saw Mill Creek, Bergen NJ 12 May (Ray Duffy) and 2 at Brigantine 18 May (J. Shenot). Fourteen American Golden-Plovers at Hamlin Beach 13 Apr (DT) made a good spring count; one at Cape May 18 Mar (TR, SG) was early. The Semipalmated Plover that wintered at Jones Beach was reported until 14 Mar (EE). There were two reports of Western Willet from w. New York: 2 at Sodus Pt., Wayne 8 May (DT, L. Lauster) and one at Batavia W.T.P. 25 May (J. Mitchell). Two or 3 Marbled Godwits wintered at Bombay Hook, and 4 at Brigantine I. 4 Mar (LS et al.) probably hadn't traveled far. The only Marbled n. of New Jersey this spring was at Canton, St. Lawrence 13 May (JB), furnishing an exceptional record for far n. New York. A **Hudsonian Godwit** at Montezuma 26 May+ (Jay McGowan, m.ob.) was unique in the Region this spring. A count of 1144 Whimbrels at Nummy I., Cape May, NJ 5 May (TR, SG) was very high for modern times. Two Curlew Sandpipers were at Heislerville, Cumberland 13-21 May (Debbie Beer, m.ob.); a single was at Fortescue, Cumberland 23 May (Vince Elia); and another was at Brigantine, Atlantic 11-13 May (Harvey Tomlinson, Tom Bailey). Three Silt Sandpipers were very early 16 Mar at Prime Hook (BP), and the same observer's count of 19 there on 23 Mar was very impressive and matches the very early arrivals to the s., at Chincoteague N.W.R., VA. Many Long-billed Dowitchers wintered at Prime Hook, and several were reported this spring from New Jersey. Much more unusual was one found by Celeste Morien at Kumpf Marsh, Iroquois N.W.R. 24 Mar not only the earliest ever for the Niagara Frontier but was just the 3rd spring record for that well-studied region. Single Red-necked Phalaropes were at Garret Mt., Passaic, NJ 4 May (Bill Boyle et al.), High Acres Nature Area, Monroe, NY 8 May (JP), Melanie Lane, Somerset, NJ 22 May (Kevin Graff), and Caroline, Tompkins, NY 23 May (S. Fast); one was at Negri-Nepote, Somerset 1 May (Jimmy Lee), and 5 were there 21 May (*fide* Patrick Belardo). A Red Phalarope visited Hyper Humus, Sussex, NJ 23 May (Alan Boyd et al.). Wilson's Phalaropes were sparsely but broadly reported this spring: Bombay Hook N.W.R. 5-6 May (J. Swertinski); Brigantine 9 (CV) & 26 May (J. Schill); Heislerville 14-15 May (MO'B, m.ob.); Hartland Niagara, NY 18 May (MM); Iroquois N.W.R. 27 May (CM); and West Monroe, Oswego, NY 31 May (BPu et al.).

Formal surveys of shorebirds staging in Delaware Bay yielded mixed results. The maximum count of Red Knots was 25,488, almost double last year's, but researchers cautioned that this number partly reflected the effectiveness of the

surveys, and that it was consistent with counts done in the previous 10 years. The peak count of Ruddy Turnstone was 13,241, far below the tallies of 60,000-100,000 that were routine in the 1980s and 1990s (AD).

A breeding-plumaged **Sabine's Gull** at Mispillion Light, DE 20-26 May (KK) furnished one of few spring records for the Region. Black-headed Gulls were scarce but widely distributed this spring: an ad. and a first-cycle bird were along Big Stone Beach Rd., DE 5-10 Mar (CPB); 2 ads. were at Villas, Cape May, NJ in early Mar; and an ad. in breeding plumage was present off Squaw I., Erie, NY 26 Apr (AH). At least 5 Little Gulls were present at the Morgan Avenue Mudflats, Middlesex, NJ 6 Apr-17 May, with a maximum of 3 on 18 Apr (TB). Others in New Jersey were at Villas, Cape May, NJ 7 Apr (Steve Kacir); at Merrill Creek Res., Warren 3 Apr (Tom Vouglas et al.); and Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon 18 Apr (FS et al.). In New York, Little Gulls were numerous along the Niagara Frontier, with a maximum of 11 at Fort Niagara S.P. 1 Apr, and 3 were elsewhere upstate: one at Saugerties Lighthouse, Ulster 26 Apr (BR), one at Waddington, St. Lawrence 25 May (JB), and 2 at the Chazy Riverlands 30 May (BK, JO). A Franklin's Gull at Round Valley Res., Hunterdon 15 Apr (Frank Sencher) was the only one reported. Laughing Gulls strayed as far as Onondaga L. 19 May (TMCK) and Dunkirk Harbor 9 May (VR). An apparent **European Herring Gull** (subspecies *argenteus* or *argentatus*) was identified by experienced observers along Thirteen Curves Rd., DE 4 Mar (BP, FR).

Arctic Terns usually occur in the Region as non-breeding visitors during Jun and Jul, with very few firm records of apparent migrants. Thus, a spate of records from late May was no-

table, with a maximum of 4 at Moriches 27 May (ph. SSM) that included 3 ads. and a first-cycle bird. Other first-cycles were photographed at Sandy Hook 26 May (SB et al.) and 125 km sse. of Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk, NY 26 May (JS, AW); additional individuals were documented at Moriches through the end of the month, using variations in bill pattern, cap pattern, and tail length (M. McBrien, m.ob.). The only spring report of Roseate Tern in New Jersey came from Sandy Hook, Monmouth, 2 birds 25-27 May (SB). A Black Skimmer at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon 23-24 May (Rob Fergus et al.) provided just the 2nd county record. Two Pomarine Jaegers were reported this spring: off Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk, NY 26 May (JS, AW) and inland at Bass River, Burlington, NJ 29 May (CK).

DOVES THROUGH CROWS

Eurasian Collared-Doves are quietly establishing themselves in the Region. Up to 3 were at Cape May 3 Mar-25 May, with others at traditional sites such as Selbyville, Sussex, DE 19 Apr (*fide* APE), Draper Rd., Sussex, DE 4 May (SL), and Hamlin, Monroe, NY 21 Mar (*fide* RS). One at Island Beach S.P., Ocean 3-4 May (Skyler Streich) was in a new location for the species. A White-winged Dove visited a Staten I., NY feeder through 21 May (AC), with others at Cape May 5 May (ph. KL) and Jones Beach 13 May (DF). Whereas these early May coastal records have become expected in recent years, a White-winged Dove at Braddock Bay 24 May (LT) made just the 3rd Rochester area record. Cuckoos drew attention in a negative way, with numerous reports of poor numbers. This was especially so with regard to Black-billed Cuckoo, whose scarcity was emphasized from se. to cen. New York. Snowy Owls were widely



This Long-billed Dowitcher was discovered at Kumpf Marsh, Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Alabama, New York by Celeste Morien 24 March 2012 and reported through 7 April (here). It was just the third spring record for the Niagara Frontier region and the earliest by more than a month. Photograph by Willie D'Anna.

reported in early Mar, following last winter's strong flight. The highest count was 6 at Niagara Falls airport, *Niagara*, NY 4 Mar, and a well-watched bird at Merrill Creek Res., *Warren*, NJ persisted until 25 Mar (TV).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported on early dates at Highland Park, *Middlesex*, NJ 9 Apr (A. Gould) and at several sites in Delaware and New Jersey 14 Apr. Early Ruby-throats deserve extra scrutiny in view of the recently proven ability for vagrant hummingbirds to winter successfully in the Region. For instance, the **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** at Cape May was present through 3 Apr (MOB, ph. m.ob.), and a Rufous Hummingbird was there through 14 Mar (m.ob.). Another Rufous, present for months near the entrance to the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan was reported through 13 Mar (m.ob.), yielding the first documented example of overwintering in New York. It's worth noting that these last dates, although fairly tightly clustered, were not marked by exceptionally cold or otherwise harsh weather. On the contrary, this interval was astonishingly warm and was characterized by the widespread arrival of various early migrants, as well as the withdrawal of various regular winter residents in our Region.

An Eastern Phoebe at Trap Pond S.P., *Sussex* 1 Mar (D. Sutherland) possibly wintered nearby. The average arrival date for this species across New York's 10 reporting regions was 11 Mar, providing a good estimate of general arrival in the Region. As is often the case, a few Eastern Kingbirds arrived far in advance of the masses, this spring's earliest coming on 10 Apr at Atsion L., *Burlington*, NJ (R. Valentin), followed by numerous examples around 14 Apr, and another early pulse around 21-23 Apr. Olive-sided Flycatchers arrived in New Jersey and the New York City area in a strong wave

4-5 May, another simple and clear example of the general trend toward earlier notably arrival, even among long-distance migrants. A Western Kingbird at Cape May 12 May (DE et al.) was very rare for spring. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported at Cape May 17 May (CJV), Franklin, *Somerset*, NJ 20-22 May (BC, m.ob.), and Gilgo, *Suffolk*, NY 29 May (ph. ROP, SPP).

Now rare throughout the Region at all seasons, a Loggerhead Shrike was photographed along Cods Rd., DE 12-13 May (RC). In contrast, Common Raven continues to increase in number and to expand into new areas. When Larry Lewis saw a raven at Bucktoe Creek Preserve, PA, flying toward Delaware, he phoned Joe Sebastiani and Jim White, who briefly saw it fly overhead at Ashland, *New Castle*, DE but were unable to obtain photographs. In New York, Mike Bochnik describes this species as now breeding in the entire Lower Hudson Valley region, including reports from downtown White Plains, *Westchester* and downtown New Rochelle, *Westchester*; Matt Young describes ravens as continuing to increase in the Susquehanna region; the Rochester area recorded its first modern confirmed breeding; and Mike Morgante mentioned more signs of expansion into lower elevations of the Niagara Frontier. Similarly, Fish Crows were noted at Cortland, *Cortland*, NY, a new site, and their newly regular presence in Rochester, *Monroe*, NY and vicinity has prompted predictions of imminent breeding.

SWALLOWS THROUGH FINCHES

A Barn Swallow was early at Brigantine 12 Mar (S. Miele), and a Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Braddock Bay the same day (M. Tetlow Doug Daniels) was record early for the Rochester area. Not long ago, Mar records of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were noteworthy throughout the

Region, even at Cape May. In recent years, it has become customary for the vanguard to arrive by the last days of the month, but spring 2012 was different. Reports during the period 27-30 Mar were numerous and widespread throughout Delaware, New Jersey, and coastal New York, whereas the front-runners appeared as early as 4 Mar, e.g., one at Barnegat Light-house S.P., *Ocean* (M. DeAngelo); the first arrival at Cape May was 21 Mar (TR).

An early Swainson's Thrush arrived 29 Apr at Flat Rock Brook, *Bergen*, NJ (ph. G. Prelich), and another arrived in coastal New York the same day (*fide* SA). The total of 27 Gray-cheeked Thrushes banded at Manitou, *Monroe*, NY was very low. A single Bicknell's Thrush was identified at Forest Park, *Queens*, NY 16 & 20 May (R. Jett; Cesar Castillo; Andrew Baksh). Bohemian Waxwings were well reported from w. and n. New York, including a new Regional maximum of 2400 at Stony Pt., *Jefferson* 21 Mar (JB, Jay McGowan, m.ob.).

A Louisiana Waterthrush at White Clay Creek S.P., *New Castle*, DE 24 Mar (J. Montgomery) was record early for Delaware. This distinction is probably largely a function of that state's relatively small breeding population, as well as the recentness of the species' ongoing trend toward earlier arrival dates. New Jersey's earliest record this spring was at Maurice R., *Cumberland* 20 Mar (BJ). One was as far n. as Bernardsville, *Somerset* 23 Mar (JP); even more impressive, one reached Delmar, *Albany*, NY as early as 25 Mar (*fide* MB). Finally, these early birds were by no means mere outliers, far ahead of the main migration, as demonstrated by a very impressive count of 5 at Central Park 4 Apr (*fide* TWB). Unlike several of the species discussed above and below in the context of unexpected Mar occurrence, Louisiana Waterthrush was until very recently almost completely restricted to the tropics during winter. That winter records are beginning to accumulate in the southernmost states, and this species' overall migration timing also appears to be advancing, are powerful illustrations of how mutable and dynamic birds' seasonal movements can be.

Orange-crowned Warbler, formerly Regionally scarce in spring, when most expected during May migration waves, appears to have closed the gap between winter lingering and spring migration. Trios survived the winter at Cape May (TR, m.ob.) and at the Meadowlands, *Bergen/Hudson*, NJ (JMcC, m.ob.), and another did so at Central Park (m.ob.), all redundantly reported through Mar, when reports ceased (at least temporarily) at the two New Jersey sites. Observations at Central Park through 16 Apr were judged to reflect the wintering bird, which was thereafter thought to have left, or at



In the Hudson-Delaware region, Arctic Terns usually occur as immatures at ocean inlets during June and July. Larger numbers than usual (up to six per day) occurred during late spring 2012, including unprecedented numbers of adults or adult-like birds. This adult (front, left) was one of three present, along with an early first-summer bird (right), near Moriches Inlet, Suffolk County, New York on 27 May 2012. Photograph by S. S. Mitra.

least to have changed its routine. Just two days later, however, 2 were present elsewhere in the park (C. Bloch), whereas another was recorded at Babylon, Suffolk, NY 12 Apr (KF).

Mourning Warblers arrived early and abruptly over a very large area: Wurtsboro, Sullivan, NY 2 May (JH et al.); Newfield, Tompkins, NY 3 May (*vide* HB); Clove Lakes Park, Richmond, NY 4 May (SSM); Caledonia, Livingston, NY 4 May (M. Wasilco); Halifax Rd., Bergen, NJ 5 May (D. Morel); Garret Mountain Reservation, Passaic, NJ 5 May (M. Mogielnicki); and Four Mile Creek S.P., Niagara, NY 6 May (WDA). The advancing dates of this quintessentially late-arriving Neotropical migrant are presented here with detailed data because they furnish such a simple and readily interpretable example of a much broader trend; many similar scenarios among the later spring migrants were observed again this year but must be neglected in this report because of space considerations. At this stage in our knowledge, the phenomenon of advancing spring arrival dates is best analyzed quantitatively, and an excellent example of such a study was undertaken by Jeff Bolsinger this spring in New York's St. Lawrence region (*Kingbird* 62: 262-267). Jeff found that *average* arrival for 84 regular spring-migrant species was record early in 2012, eclipsing the previous record average from 2009. No fewer than 17 species were record early, 71 arrived more than one day earlier than average, and just four arrived more than one day later than average.

A Common Yellowthroat at Prospect Park, Queens, NY 2 Mar (Rafael Campos-Ramírez) probably wintered somewhere not very far from that site. More enigmatic was a Northern Parula at Silver Lake Park, Richmond, NY 10-18 Mar (CB, MS et al.). This bird, which was reportedly present even earlier, would seem much more likely a winter survivor that had gone undetected, or had begun moving about as the days lengthened, than a migrant from normal wintering areas. Another in Milford, Sussex DE 1 Apr (CPB, KAB) was more likely a very early migrant, in view of a small but growing list of similar dates in the Region. Continuing with the theme of overwintering Neotropical migrants, coastal New York hosted no fewer than 4 Yellow-breasted Chats during Mar: one continued from winter at Union Square Park, Manhattan until 31 Mar; another did the same at Hempstead Lake S.P., Nassau, NY through 8 Apr; one was recorded at Conference House Park, Richmond, NY 23 Mar (J. Stetson, T. Perlman); and one was present nearby at the Cemetery of the Resurrection, Richmond 25 Mar-3 Apr (AC). More astonishing than any of these, but absolutely unambiguous in terms of successful overwintering, was a Black-throated Blue Warbler that spent the entire winter and

part of the spring at a Napeague, Suffolk, NY feeder (*vide* HM), last seen 31 Mar, after which it is more likely to have wandered off than to have perished. Cape May's wintering warblers had last dates of 6 Mar for Nashville Warbler (MC) and 28 Mar for Yellow-breasted Chat (Matt Webster, m.ob.).

Pine Warblers continued from winter in several instances, but there was an obvious influx of migrants mid-Mar: 21 at Cape May Pt., Cape May, NJ 14 Mar were "apparently engaged in active migration during the first 90 minutes after sunrise; most arrived from Delaware Bay and were headed northward" (TR). The very earliest Yellow-throated Warblers arrived around the same time (e.g., Prime Hook N.W.R. 15 Mar; SL), followed by as many as 7 at Belleplain S.F. 23 Mar (D. Lord), and a migrant at Buffalo, Erie, NY 25 Mar (R. Salembier). Later in the spring, coastal New York tallied 10 Yellow-throated Warblers, including a pair apparently on territory at Connetquot River S.P., Suffolk; there are as yet no breeding records for Long Island.

Additional examples of scarce/rare species that came and went prior to the main flow of spring migration include a Lark Sparrow that wintered at a Kendall, Orleans, NY feeder through 5 Mar (DT); an Oregon Junco and a Dickcissel that visited a Tottenville, Richmond, NY feeder through 5 Mar (L. Manne, RRV); and a Bullock's Oriole that visited and was photographed at a Saranac L., Franklin, NY feeder 13 Apr (*vide* MMcC). Cape May's wintering Dickcissel was last noted 31 Mar (MC). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were widely reported in Mar and the first half of Apr: 2 in cattle fields in Salem, NJ 10-11 Mar (LS et al.); at the s. end of Cayuga L., Tompkins, NY 10 Mar (CW, JBa); at the Mercer Sod Farm, Burlington, NJ 18 Mar (W. Keim, G. Johnson); at Allaire Park, Monmouth, NJ 27 Mar-8 Apr (A. Rigazio); at Holland, Hunterdon, NJ 12 Apr (D. Harrison); and at a Warren, NJ feeder 12 Apr (S. Hernandez et al., ph.). Later records included one at Brad-dock Bay 12 May (LT) and a territorial male at West Corners Marsh, Broome, NY 26 Apr-11 May (S. Krotzer).

Pine Siskins nested in large numbers across upstate New York, and Matt Young assessed the situation as "the best breeding event for Central New York since 2004, owing much to the largest hemlock cone crop in more than ten years." Perhaps the most remarkable record of the season was the Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch that visited Nancy Loomis's feeders at Locust Grove, Jefferson, NY 4-8 Mar. Following New York's first documented record by less than three months, this vagrant delighted hundreds of birders and raised questions for many regarding how many other unexpected birds might

be drifting across the landscape at this season.

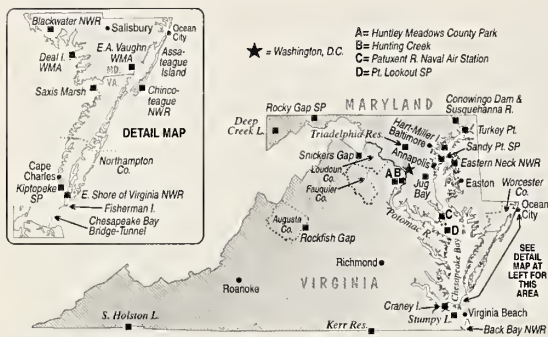
Observers (subregional compilers in bold-face): Patricia Aitken, Russ Alderson, Seth Ausubel (Long I. and New York City: 118-17 Union Turnpike, Forest Hills, NY 11375), Scott Barnes (North Coast region, NJ: Sandy Hook Bird Observatory, P. O. Box 553, Ft. Hancock, NJ 07732), Jessie Barry (JBa), Catherine Barron, Hope Batcheller (Finger Lakes region, NY: 250 Rabbit College Rd, Petersburg NY 12138), Chris P. Bennett, Karen Bennett, Bobby Berlingeri, Mike Bochnik (Lower Hudson River Valley, NY: 70 Hutchinson Blvd., Mt. Vernon, NY 10552), Jeff Bolsinger (St. Lawrence region, NY: 98 State Street, Canton NY 13617), Jake Bowman (JaB), Tom Boyle, Thomas W. Burke, Anthony Ciancimino, Richard Clifton, Brian Clough, John Collins, Edward Crawford, Mike Crewe, Doug Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Marty DeAngelo, Amanda Dey, Ray Duffy, David Eberle, Evan Edelbaum, Andrew P. Ednie, Rob Fergus, Ken Feustel, Bob Fogg, Doug Futuyma, Sam Galick, Andy Guthrie, John Haas, Alec Humann, Brian Johnson, Kevin Kalasz, Tiffany Kersten, Matt King, Norm Klein, Chip Krilowicz, Bill Krueger, Tony Leukering, Larry Lewis, Patricia J. Lindsay, Dave Lord, Glen Lovelace, Karl Lukens, Sharon Lynn, Lisa Ann Malandrino, Julie McCall, Melanie McCormick (Adirondack-Champplain region, NY: P. O. Box 366, Keene, NY 12942), Hugh McGuinness, Tom McKay, Shaibal S. Mitra, Mike Morgante (Niagara Frontier region, NY: 6405 Woodberry Court, East Amherst, NY 14051), Celeste Morien, Michael O'Brien, Jim Osborn, Robert O. Paxton, Joseph Pescatore, Bruce Peterjohn, Sarah Plimpton, Peter Polshek, Marcia Puling, Bill Purcell (BPu), Tom Reed, Bill Robinson, Frank Rohrbacher (Delaware: 5 Neva Court, Wilmington, DE 19810, rohrbaf@aol.com), Vicki Rothman, Larry Scacchetti, Steve Schellenger, Frank Sencher, Jr., Mike Shanley, John Shemilt, Robert Spahn (Genesee region, NY: 716 High Tower Way, Webster, NY 14580), Kim Steininger, David Tetlow, Luke Tiller, Richard R. Veit, Christopher Vogel, Tom Vouglas, William Watson, Jr., Angus Wilson, Chris Wood, Kyle Wright, Rick Wright, Will Yandik (Hudson-Mohawk region, NY: 269 Schneider Road, Hudson NY 12534), Matthew A. Young (Susquehanna region, NY: Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850). ☺

Shaibal S. Mitra, Department of Biology, College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, New York 10314 (Shaibal.mitra@csi.cuny.edu)

Robert O. Paxton, 460 Riverside Drive, Apt. 72, New York, New York 10027, (rop1@columbia.edu)

Frank Rohrbacher, 5 Neva Court, Wilmington, Delaware 19810, (rohrbaf@aol.com)

Middle Atlantic



Mark T. Adams
Robert Ostrowski

March featured record warmth on the Coastal Plain and near-record warmth everywhere else. March precipitation ranged from above normal in the eastern part of the Region to relatively dry in the west. April saw more above-normal temperatures, though not near record warmth; rainfall was below normal in Maryland and normal in Virginia. May brought more above-average warmth and normal precipitation. The Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory's eighth annual spring songbird banding operation at First Landing State Park in Virginia Beach banded a total of 988 birds of 65 species 2 March–28 May during 8960 net hours, 21% below the seven-year average of 1250 birds. The species diversity was below the previous low of 76 in 2010. Numerous days of significant northeasterly wind were likely a contributing factor.

The season's highlights included Brown Booby, the returning black-billed Great Egret, Black Rail, multiple Ruffs, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Western Tanager, plus the continuing Virginia's Warbler and Brewer's Sparrow. In addition to our many individual contributors, we thank Phil Davis, Adam D'Onofrio, Dan Perkuchin, and Bill Williams for their assistance in compiling and interpreting this season's records.

Abbreviations: Assat. (Assateague I., Worcester, MD); Back Bay (Back Bay N.W.R., Virginia Beach, VA); Bay (Chesapeake Bay); C.B.B.T. (Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, s. Northampton); Chinc. (Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack, VA); Craney (Craney Island Disposal Site, Portsmouth, VA); E.S.V.N.W.R. (Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., Northampton, VA); Hog (Hog Island W.M.A., Surry, VA); N.A.P. (Natural Area Preserve).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

The 13 Greater White-fronted Geese continued from winter at Stuart's Draft, Augusta, VA through 16 Mar (AL et al.). Two Cackling Geese at Woodlawn Cemetery, Norfolk, VA 17 Feb–7 Mar (ph. RH, JY, JM, RLAk, ph. ESB) made the

latest record. A Eurasian Wigeon continued from winter at Kent Narrows, Queen Anne's, MD through 9 Mar (RO, m.ob.). A Eurasian Teal at University of Maryland Central Farm, Howard, MD 6–15 Apr (NM et al.) made a first county record; another at Lilypons Water Gardens, Frederick, MD continued from the winter until 16 Mar (MW et al.). A Eurasian Teal x Green-winged Teal cross was studied at Blackwater N.W.R., Dorchester, MD 4 Mar (WEL, NMa). A late Green-winged Teal was at Shirley Plantation, Charles City, VA 19 May (AD). An extraordinary find, a Redhead pair with 3 ducklings was documented on the Occoquan R. in Fairfax, VA, seen from the Belmont Bay Harbor Marina 19 May (KG); there is no prior Regional record of nesting. The 9540 Surf Scoters at Rigby's Folly, Talbot, MD 9 Mar (GA, HTA) made one of the highest Maryland counts in recent memory. The only inland White-winged Scoter away from the Bay was at Piscataway Cr., Prince George's, MD 18 Mar (MB et al.). Other notable ducks included a female Long-tailed Duck inland at L. Shenandoah, Rockingham, VA 1 Apr (GM, DL) and flocks of 8–14 of the same species—unusually large numbers for late spring—at four Anne Arundel, MD locations 12–28 May (m.ob.). A Northern Bobwhite at Blairs Valley L., Washington, MD 9–26 May (JGr, KCa, m.ob.) was a notable, and the most westerly, report of this increasingly scarce species.

Single Red-throated Loons were spotted at Triadelphia Res., Howard 1–4 Apr (WC, m.ob.) and at Black Hill R.P., Montgomery, MD 3 Apr (DCz, MAT). A Pacific Loon at Kerr Res., Mecklenburg, VA 1–13 Apr (AD, PG, MP, WT et al.) was likely the same bird seen in several previous winters, though none had been reported at all over the winter there. With a group of female Red-breasted Mergansers was a breeding-plumaged Red-necked Grebe at Ft. Monroe, Hampton, VA 8 & 14 Apr (EE, ph. V&GB); another was seen at C.B.B.T. 23 Mar (DF, TW).

A 17 Mar Worcester pelagic trip produced a Regional record 112 Manx Shearwaters (MHo et al.). At Norfolk Canyon, a Cory's Shearwater, 2 Great Shearwaters, 4 Sooty Shearwaters, 8 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, and 2 Leach's Storm-Petrels were noted 30 May (JW). A healthy imm. Brown Booby landed

on Capt. Tom Smith's boat *Ella* off Wachapreague inlet, Accomack 25 Mar and rode to the dock (ph. T. Smith; fide ESB). An unexpected imm. Northern Gannet was seen flying over the James R. at James City, VA and Surry, VA 26 Mar (TA, BT). Also unexpected, Northern Gannets were seen at various locations n. of Maryland's Bay Bridge 1–9 Apr (EH, m.ob.). An American White Pelican cruised over Willoughby Bay, Norfolk 4–5 Apr (AB, FD), and a flock of 24 circled over Hog 4 Apr (Brian Williams et al.), establishing a new state high count that was quickly re-set 13 Apr when 33 birds were at the same location (TA et al.). Five of these birds lingered until 8 May (ph. Barbara Houston). Maryland also established its high count for American White Pelicans with 81 at Blackwater N.W.R., Dorchester, MD 23 Mar (HTA). A Brown Pelican visited the Hopewell Yacht Haven, Prince George, VA 23 Feb–3 Mar (LB; ph. HB). An Anhinga pair was at Harwood's Mill, the site of Virginia's first documented nesting in 2009, for the 4th year in a row and was last reported 25 May (DY). Another Anhinga flew over Dutch Gap, Chesterfield, VA 15 Apr (JK, Bob Harris); another was at Stumpy L., Virginia Beach, VA 15 May (MP, WT). Part of the many early records this spring, a Least Bittern was at Point Lookout S.P., St. Mary's, MD 7 Apr (ML, m.ob.).

A black-billed Great Egret, potentially an African Great Egret (*Ardea alba melanorhynchos*), was at Chinc. for a 3rd year 30 Mar–5 Apr (JE, ph. WH); what was presumably the same bird was not found there in 2011 but seen repeatedly in 2009 and 2010. Not nearly as rare, but still uncommon on the Maryland piedmont, a Snowy Egret appeared at Hughes Hollow, Montgomery, MD 18 May (DCz). Two Cattle Egrets visited Mainland Farm, James City 25 May (BW); 6 were at the College Creek Hawkwatch, James City 25 May (BT); a single was near Spring Grove, Surry 6 May (AD, PG);



Almost all of Maryland's records of Eurasian Teal come from the Eastern Shore, but this individual was found at the University of Maryland Central Farm in Howard County on 6 (here 11) April 2012. Photograph by Nancy Magnusson.

and one was at Willow Road Ponds, *Frederick*, MD 23-24 Apr (AWi), where the species is rare. Many Yellow-crowned Night-Herons arrived in Maryland about a week earlier than normal. Single White-faced Ibis were reported from three Maryland locations: Truitts Landing, *Worcester* 8 Apr (EB, JLS); Fairmount W.M.A., *Somerset* 20 Apr (BB, MBu); and South Pt., *Worcester* 11-23 May (DS, m.ob.)

Two Swallow-tailed Kites soared over a residential yard in Mechanicsville, *Hanover*, VA 10-12 Apr (R&BP); others were in *Campbell*, VA 16 Apr (Thelma & John Dalmas); at Greenfield L., *Botetourt*, VA 17 Apr (LNe, *fide* AQ), the first Roanoke Valley record since 1938; near Kiptopeke S.P., *Northampton* 21 Apr (MM); and in *Caroline*, MD 23 Apr (KP). Mississippi Kite reports were subdued in comparison, with only a handful of reports in Maryland, though Virginia saw a more typical number of reports from the usual locations. Five Merlins made a new high count at the College Creek Hawkwatch 4 Apr (*fide* BT).

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

There were at least three Yellow Rail reports in Maryland: one at Hughes Hollow, *Montgomery* 28 Apr (DCz, MAT); another discovered during a marsh bird survey conducted via boat at Big Monie Cr., *Somerset*, MD 10 May (RG et al.); and one in a St. Mary's, MD backyard 13 May (PC). A **Black Rail** heard at Saxis, *Accomack* 15 May (RLAk, CB) was a rare voice of hope for this species in Virginia, where it has become perhaps the state's rarest regular nester; reasons for its decline in the Region are not known. Two King Rails were heard at Crewes 18 Mar (ABr); a single King Rail was heard here 8 Apr (AB) and photographed 15 Apr (PB). Two Kings were also at reliable Occoquan Bay N.W.R., *Prince William* 4 Mar (MR), 31 Mar (JFo), and 4 May (TMD, PBo). Four Virginia Rails made good records for the Newport News Spring Bird Count at Grandview Preserve, *King George*, VA 6 May (NF et al.). An American Coot lingered at Hog 29 May (AD). Four Sandhill Cranes each were at Oxbow L., *Anne Arundel* 10 Apr (JSh, m.ob.) and E. A. Vaughn W.M.A., *Worcester* 12 May (Jo Lutmerding). The 2 Sandhill Cranes at *Howard*, MD continued from the winter through 11 Mar (GB, m.ob.).

A Wilson's Plover on Metompkin I., *Accomack* 1 Apr (RK) was a day ahead of the species' previous 2 Apr extreme date; another was at False Cape S.P., Virginia Beach 16 Apr (DH, JG). Rare this far n. up the Bay and away from Poplar I., 2 American Oystercatchers each were at Knapps Narrow Marina, *Talbot* 18 Mar-14 May (DPa) and Black Walnut Pt., *Talbot* 10-11 May (FH, m.ob.); a pair was observed attending 2 chicks at the Hampton Roads Bridge-

Tunnel, Hampton, VA 30 Apr (RB et al.). Also rarely detected away from Poplar I., 5 Black-necked Stilts were notable at Pickering Creek Audubon Center, *Talbot* 15 Apr (TAL, MSm et al.). A Black-necked Stilt at Swan Creek, *Anne Arundel* 24 Apr-27 May (MSt, m.ob.) made the only w. Bay shore report away from Hart-Miller Island. Rare inland, 4 American Avocets were at Hog 1 Mar (DCr). Other notable avocet reports included 10-11 at Craney 29 Mar-4 Apr (V&GB et al.) and 2 at Swan Creek, *Anne Arundel* 29-30 Apr (SA, m.ob.). A Solitary Sandpiper at the Beasley Tract of Princess Anne W.M.A., Virginia Beach 20 Mar (RLAk) was a month earlier than the species' average 20 Apr arrival date and probably the earliest ever recorded in the state. An impressive 43 Solitary Sandpipers were along Harney Rd., *Frederick*, MD 7 May (AWi). Scarce on the w. Bay, 6 Eastern Willets were along Bay Tree Beach Rd., *York* 15 May (DY); 325 were on Assat. 18 Apr (JLS). The peak Whimbrel count was 2291 at Box Tree Marsh, *Northampton* 24 May (FSm et al.). This site provides unparalleled opportunities for observing the northward migration of this curlew in large numbers; from this location, the birds fly nonstop overnight to Toronto, Ontario. There is much concern over a proposal to build colossal wind turbines in s. *Northampton*, directly on the Whimbrels' flight path. An aerial survey of the Eastern Shore coastal barrier islands conducted by the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary, Virginia Commonwealth University and the Virginia Coast Reserve of The Nature Conservancy documented 8482 Red Knots 24 May (BWa, BTr); 80% were on Parramore I., *Accomack* (3263 birds) and Hog I., *Northampton* (3545 birds). The season's highest Semipalmated Sandpiper total was 7811 at Chinc. 31 May (JBU, CM). The 3 Stilt Sandpipers at Chinc. 29 Mar (RLAk, ESB) were near the species' 24 Mar extreme early date and provide one of very few Mar records for the Region. A Dunlin in *Fauquier* 17-18 Apr (ph. TMD) was rare. It was a good spring for Ruff, with singles at Hart-Miller I., *Baltimore*, MD 2 & 30 Apr (KGr, RFR, m.ob.) and at Jug Bay, *Anne Arundel* 16 Apr (FS, m.ob.). A Ruff among Stilt Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs was well observed at Chinc. 7-23 May (RLAk, m.ob.). Locally very rare, particularly in spring, a Long-billed Dowitcher was an outstanding find at S. Germantown Recreational Park, *Montgomery*, MD 4-5 May (DCz, AM, m.ob.). Single Wilson's Phalaropes were at Craney 3 May (RLAk, BT et

al.); at Fulton Pt., *Howard* 8 May (JGr, m.ob.); and at Swan Creek, *Anne Arundel* 9 & 30 May (DP, EB, m.ob.). A Red-necked Phalarope was at Cape Charles Coastal Habitat Natural Area Preserve, *Northampton* 27 Apr (ESB), on which date another was seen offshore of Cape Charles (BP); 3 were at Chinc. 22 May (GSm); and an ad. female was at Craney 24 May (RLAk et al.).

A Pomarine Jaeger was off Cape Charles Coastal Habitat N.A.P., *Northampton* 16 Apr; a Parasitic there 1 May (ESB). This location has proved to be a good seawatch location during migration and winter, with multiple records of both jaegers made in the context of an Oct-May seabird study here conducted by the Center for Conservation Biology (FSm, ESB), the results to be published at a later time. A late



Found and photographed at a small suburban lake in Anne Arundel County on 4 May 2012, this bird became Maryland's first cooperative Anhinga in years. It was enjoyed by many until its departure on 9 May. Photograph by Bill Hubick.



Spring 2012 was a down season for Mississippi Kite observations in the mid-Atlantic and Northeast. One of the few Maryland reports came from a boat yard in Talbot County, where this individual circled overhead for five minutes on 25 May 2012. Photograph by Jared Satchell.



This Western Tanager, found and photographed at Black Hill Regional Park on 12 May 2012, made only the eighth accepted Maryland record but the fourth for Montgomery County. Photograph by Dave Czaplak.

ad. Bonaparte's Gull was at Jamestown I., *James City* 17 May (OG). A Black-headed Gull was a nice find on the Susquehanna R., *Cecil*, MD 6-17 Mar (MH, m.ob.). The wintering Black-headed Gull at Chinc. was last reported 7 Mar (NF), and one at Morgantown, *Charles*, MD 13 Mar (JLS) made a likely first county record. Another was at Point Lookout S.P., *St. Mary's* 24 Mar (ML, m.ob.). Maryland observers recorded 6 Little Gulls at five locations 11 Mar–15 Apr. A Franklin's Gull at Violette's Lock, *Montgomery* 9 Apr (DCz, m.ob.) continued a good season for rare gulls at this Maryland location. An imm. Glaucous Gull showed up at Occoquan Bay N.W.R., *Prince William* 4 Mar (MR).

A Gull-billed Tern at Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel, Hampton 5 Apr (RB et al.) reset the state's early date by four days; 21 were at White Pond Swamp, Hampton, VA 6 May (NF, EE, SS). A Black Skimmer at Chinc. 28 Mar (LR) was ahead of schedule; most arrive here a month later. A Caspian Tern was at Mills Creek L., *Amherst*, VA 18 Mar and 18 Apr (MJ, J&BJL).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

A Eurasian Collared-Dove at a Chincoteague, *Accomack* feeder 19 Mar (JBU, CM) had been seen for "the past few months" by the homeowner. Unexpected singles were also at Rose-dale, *Russell*, VA 30 Mar (DW, TH), at a Stanardsville feeder, *Greene*, VA 1 Apr (CBr, BL), and at Keyville, *Charlotte*, VA 23 Apr (MS), 50 km ne. of the nearest population in South Boston. A White-winged Dove made a 4th county record at Assat. 24 May (RO, m.ob.). A Common Nighthawk at Assat. 17 Apr (JLS) was notably early. Exceptional for the Virginia Eastern Shore were 2 Eastern Whip-poor-wills at E.S.V.N.W.R. 9-10 Apr (FSm, ESB) and one near Hallwood, *Accomack* 27 Apr (MY). The 20 Chimney Swifts spotted over downtown Richmond 28 Mar were very early (PB), but many

followed in early Apr, more than a week ahead of normal. A female Rufous Hummingbird banded at Ford's Colony, *James City* 15 Jan remained through 17 Mar (G&GT); a male Rufous banded 16 Jan in the Varina section of *Henrico* lingered until late Mar (NS). A Pileated Woodpecker nest at Robinson Nature Center, *Howard* 28 Mar (*fide* JS) set a new Maryland egg date.

Two Alder Flycatchers, a seldom-identified spring migrant, were at Piney Grove Preserve, *Sussex* 19 May (AB). One at Mt. Pleasant Farm,

Howard stayed into Jun (RR, m.ob.), a rare event on the Piedmont. An impressive 5 were heard singing in suitable habitat in *Highland*, VA 28 May (ABr). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was a one-day wonder at Dutch Gap, *Chesterfield*, VA 7 May (ph. HB). The continuing Loggerhead Shrike at Ashville Park, Virginia Beach, VA was last noted 20 Mar (JB, EE), and 2 were along Cattleman Rd., *Augusta*, VA 17 Mar (GM, WL), as in previous years, though not last year. One in *Clarke*, VA 10 Mar (MR, KG) was likely previously reported from winter. A male Purple Martin at Bryan Park, Richmond 8 Mar (AWH) was early. Purple Martins arrived more than two weeks earlier than normal at the Defense Supply Center, *Chesterfield* (AC). A House Wren was an uncommon find in *Buchanan*, VA 4 May (RM). The 1-2 Marsh Wrens detected in n. *Albemarle*, VA 18 Apr (SMi) made a first Apr county record. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers arrived early throughout Maryland and had been recorded in at least seven counties by the 3rd week of Mar (*fide* RO). A Wood Thrush at York River S.P., *York*, VA 28 Mar (DJ, BE) was extremely early. The 300 American Pipits recorded along Harney Rd. and Bullfrog Rd., *Frederick*, MD 11 Apr (AWi) made the season's high count. Also observed in good numbers were Cedar Waxwings, with high counts of 575 at Northampton L., *Prince George's* 7 May (RO) and 749 on the Big Spring Day in the Peaks of Otter parkway area 5 May (GS), straddling the *Bedford/Botetourt* border.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Early warblers included a Northern Parula at Finzel Swamp, *Garrett*, MD 22 Mar (MT); 2 Yellow-throated Warblers at James River Park, Richmond 16 Mar (PB, B&BS) and one record-setter at E. A. Vaughn W.M.A., *Worcester* 16 Mar+ (NM et al.); 2 Black-and-white Warblers at Pocahontas S.P., *Chesterfield* 23 Mar (PB); an American Redstart singing in a Chester, *Ches-*

terfield residential yard 24 Mar (JK); an Ovenbird singing at James River Park, Richmond 11 Mar (JF); and a Magnolia Warbler at David Force W.M.A., *Howard* 18 Apr (BO). Louisiana Waterthrush was also a widespread early arrival this spring, breaking the early date in several Maryland counties. The 5 singing Northern Waterthrushes at Occoquan Bay N.W.R., *Prince William*, VA 4 May (TMD, PBo) made a fine record. A Swainson's Warbler, Regionally rare away from its Dismal Swamp and mt. strongholds, was heard singing along Cabin Point Rd., *Sussex* 6 May (NF). The *Virginia's* Warbler discovered in winter delighted birders at Pickering Creek Audubon Center, *Talbot* through 25 Mar (EB, JLS, m.ob.). A female Mourning Warbler was banded at Occoquan Bay N.W.R., *Prince William* 9 May (JTa), the first there since spring 2008. A Prairie Warbler that wintered on Assat. was last seen 31 Mar (RO, m.ob.). An early Wilson's Warbler sang in a residential Richmond yard 15 Apr (AB). Some (many?) of these "early" warblers could have wintered in the Region or not far from the Region, but extremely early arrivals were recorded both in the Carolinas and to the n., so that local wintering does not supply a satisfactory explanation for all.

The Brewer's Sparrow at Occoquan Bay N.W.R., *Prince William* continued from winter through 30 Mar (LC, m.ob.). An impressive 16-30 Vesper Sparrows were in a corn stubble field along Harrison Rd., *Fauquier*, VA 30 Mar and 2 Apr (TMD). A Lark Sparrow was along the Shenandoah River S.P. River Trail, *Warren*, VA 4 Mar (GK, MAK). Others were at Sky Meadows S.P., *Fauquier* 14 Apr (SB), at Assat. through 30 Mar (RO, m.ob.), and along Brennemens Lane, *Augusta* through 16 Mar (ABra, GMA). Very rarely seen away from their w. Maryland breeding locales, a Henslow's Sparrow pair was observed copulating in *Harford* 19 Apr–17 May (KH, MH, m.ob.). A Le Conte's Sparrow was a nice find at the Irvine Nature Center, *Baltimore* 11-18 Mar (KC, m.ob.).

The male Western Tanager that wintered at Settler's Mill, *James City* was last reported 8 Mar (BW). Another was at Black Hill R.P., *Montgomery* 12 May (DCz, MAT). An Indigo Bunting w. of Woodstock, *Shenandoah*, VA 8 Apr (J&BJL) was quite early. Single Painted Buntings were at a *Baltimore* home 2 Mar (SH, JMo); at Dutch Gap, *Chesterfield* 11 May (PB et al.); and along the Chinc. Wildlife Loop 29-30 Apr (DC, MRu). A female and 2 male Brewer's Blackbirds were in a field sw. of Wakefield, *Sussex* 4 Mar (DB). Up to 3 Boat-tailed Grackles were at Ragged Island W.M.A., *Isle of Wight*, VA this season (NF, WT). Among 27 active Boat-tailed Grackle nests at Grandview Nature Preserve, Hampton 19 Apr (BW, BT), at least four held newly hatched nestlings, well earlier than

the previous 22 Apr early egg date. Three Red Crossbills made a welcome find at Shenandoah Mt., Rockingham, VA 27 May (DL, GM).

Contributors: Robert L. Ake (RLAk), Terry Allen (TAl), Robert L. Anderson (RLAn), George L. Armistead, Harry T. Armistead, Tom Armour, Stan Arnold, Andrew Baldelli, Betsy Bangert, Lewis Barnett, Scott Baron, Jane Beavers, Ruth Beck, Paul Bedell, Laura Beltran (LBe), George Berkhelmer, Perri Borowiecki (PBo), Arun Bose, Michael Bowen, Ed Boyd, Virginia & George Boyles, Ashley Bradford (ABra), Carol Bratton (CBra), David Bridge, Calvin Brennan, Edward S. Brinkley, Harry Brown, Allen Bryan (ABr), Joelle Buffa (JBu), Mike Burchett (MBu), Kathy Calvert (KCa), Linda Chitum, David Clark, Andrea Conkle, Keith Costley, Patty Craig, Dan Cristol (DCr), Warren Cummings, Dave Czaplak (DCz), Inge Curtis, Thelma & John Dalmas, Fenton Day, Todd M.

Day, Adam D'Onofrio, Wendy Ealding, Barbara Eck, Walter Ellison (WEL), Jennifer Elmer, Elisa Enders, Darol Flahart, Nick Flanders, James Fox (JFo), Janice Frye, John Gallegos, Kurt Gaskill, Paul Glass, Kevin Graff (KGr), Jim Green (JGr), Olof Gustafsson, Ron Gutterlet, Kim Hafner, Matt Hafner, Frank Hall, Bob Harris, Elaine Hendricks, Mark Hoffman (MHo), William Hohenstein, Barbara Houston (BHo), Scott Houston, Renee Hudgins, David Hughes, Tom Hunter, Diane Jadowski, Mark Johnson, Julie Kacmarcik, Ryan Kelley, Glenn Koppel & Mary Alice Koenke, Barbara Lambert, Alan Larner, William Leigh, Diane Lepkowski, Jon & B. J. Little, Jo Lutmerding, Mikey Lutmerding, Nancy Magnusson, Mark Mahnke, Gabriel Mapel (GMa), Jim Marcum, Andy Martin, Nancy Martin (NMa), Roger Mayhorn, Stauffer Miller (SMi), Jessica Morgan (JMo), Clyde Morris, Greg Moyers, Robert Ostrowski, Bonnie Ott, David Palmer (DPa), Bri-

an Patteson, Rick & Bonnie Perry, Kurt Plinke, Dave Powell, Mike Purdy, Alyce Quinn, Marc Ribaud, Robert F. Ringler, Les Roslund, Marv Rubin (MRu), Russ Ruffing, Gene Sattler, Ben & Betsy Saunders, Fred Shaffer, Jay Sheppard (JSh), Dan Small, Fletcher Smith (FSm), Gary Smith (GSm), Mandy Smith (MSm), Nelda Snyder, Jo Solem, James L. Stasz, Michael Stewart (MSt), Mike Stinson, Stuart Sweetman, Brian Taber, Joanna Taylor (JTa), Wes Teets, Matt Tillett, Mary Ann Todd, Georgia & Gale Treiber, Barry Truitt (BTr), Bryan Watts (BWa), Mike Welch, Adolph White (AWH), Alex Wilke, Bill Williams, Brian Williams (BWi), John Willson, Andy Wilson (AWi), Tony Wood, Dave Worley, Dave Youker, John Young, Matthew Young

Mark T. Adams, 2300 Rocky Run, Charlottesville, Virginia 22901, (markadamsphd@yahoo.com)
Robert Ostrowski, 816 Easley Street, Apt. 1525, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 (rjostrowski@gmail.com)



Ken Blankenship
Richard Hall
Josh Southern

The word "early" became emblematic of the spring season as, one after another, Neotropical migrants arrived and began singing in familiar locations, days or even weeks before they were expected. The majority of these species generally spend the winter separated from our Region by hundreds of latitudinal miles, which would seemingly preclude a systematic response to seasonal variations in weather patterns. Nonetheless, as the remarkably mild winter gave way to exceptionally early warm spring conditions, accelerated leaf-out, and insect activity, birders could not help but equate such "early birds" with climate change.

Drought conditions worsened across much of the Southeast, with Tropical Storm Beryl delivering much-needed rain in late May while displacing a few tropical species as well.

Abbreviations: C.C.W.A. (Clayton County Water Authority, Clayton, GA); K.M.T. (Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Cobb, GA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

A single Cackling Goose mingled with a flock of Canada Geese on L. Hickory, Catawba, NC 8-11 Mar (DM et al., m.ob.). The male Cinnamon Teal from winter was present at the C.C.W.A. until at least 5 Mar (CL). A female Common Eider remained at Oregon Inlet, NC through the end of the period (AW, JL, m. ob.). A unique fall-out of Common Goldeneyes occurred 3 Mar in Georgia: 3 at the C.C.W.A. (JS); one at Bear Creek Res., Jackson (MB, RH, VL); 3 at L. Lanier, Forsyth (GS); and 8 at Carter's L., Murray (PA, KB, RB). Annual but local breeders, a female Hooded Merganser with 4 ducklings was observed in Richmond, GA 22 Apr (KB, RB), and an-

other family unit was in Henry, GA 3 May (PR). Though still considered rare, Pacific Loon is likely an annual spring transient on large, inland man-made reservoirs, exemplified by one at L. Hartwell on the Georgia/South Carolina border 11-27 Mar (MF, m.ob.) and one at L. Lanier, GA 18-25 Apr (JFL, KB). A Red-necked Grebe was at L. Hartwell, SC 10 Mar (MJ et al.).

An albatross of undetermined species only 8 km e. of Cape Lookout Shoals, NC 20 Mar (EK) may have been the Black-browed noted off Hatteras, NC 18 Feb. Two Northern Fulmars were recorded off Oregon Inlet, NC 11 Mar (JW et al.). A dark-morph Herald (Trinidad) Petrel was off Hatteras, NC 31 May; single Fea's Petrels were recorded there on 24, 29, & 31 May



Pacific Loon is a casual but fairly regular spring transient on large, interior reservoirs in the Southern Atlantic region. This bird was photographed on 11 March 2012 at Lake Hartwell on the Georgia/South Carolina border, a location that has hosted the species on multiple occasions. Photograph by Rachel Cass.

(all BPI). Notable Sooty Shearwater sightings included 18 off Hatteras 22 May (BPI) and 3 observed from shore at Ft. Macon S.P., NC 27 May, likely affected by strong e. winds generated by Tropical Storm *Beryl* (JF, JFe, LG). Other pelagic specialties recorded off Hatteras included a European Storm-Petrel 31 May and single White-tailed and Red-billed Tropicbirds 27 May (all BPI).

A wandering Wood Stork was near the n. limits of the species' range near Columbia, Tyrrell, NC 3 Apr (JSt), while 5 soaring over the Black R., Pender, NC 26 May (GG) were likely from the breeding colony documented there last summer. Perhaps displaced by *Beryl* was an ad. Masked Booby off Hatteras 31 May (BPI). The perennial wintering ad. Great Cormorant was last recorded at L. Walter F. George, GA 18 Mar (JFl, EH). Up to 500 pairs of Brown Pelicans nested at Little Egg Island Bar, GA,



Demonstrating its unique flight profile for pelagic observers off Hatteras, North Carolina was this adult Masked Booby on 31 May 2012. Photograph by Nathan Dias.



Noted just after the passage of Tropical Storm *Beryl*, this worn Brown Noddy perched on an offshore Navy tower represented only the second spring record for South Carolina 31 May 2012. Photograph by Joel McNeal.

the largest of the state's three nesting colonies, among the throng were 9 rehabilitated and translocated in 2010 following the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, plus a returning ad. with red pouch, apparently of the Pacific subspecies, *californicus* (TK). Equally out of place were a White Ibis far inland in Floyd, GA 19-20 May (AS) and an ad. Glossy Ibis in the mts. of Henderson, NC 10 May (WF). With no previous state records, two reports of **White-faced Ibis** were especially remarkable near Charleston, SC: one at Fresh Field Farm, Kiawah I. 12 Apr (ph. JP) and one on Seabrook I. 9 May (JE, JC). Roseate Spoonbills nested for only the 2nd time in the Region, with three nests confirmed at last year's wading bird rookery in Camden, GA (TK). Extraordinary if confirmed, a light-morph Harlan's Hawk was reported from Alligator River N.W.R., NC 2 Mar (MT, EO). A Purple Gallinule was again in Mecklenburg, NC; this one frequented a wetland 30 Apr–22 May (TS, RG, m.ob.).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Seven Willets at a Henderson, NC W.T.F. 26 Apr (WF) in the wake of heavy rains made an excellent inland count. Providing evidence that migrants from w. breeding populations stage on the Georgia coast was "Gould," one of 2 Whimbrels fitted with satellite transmitters on St. Simon's I.; the bird had made it to Great Slave L., NT, Canada by 25 May (TK). Establishing record inland high counts at a fish farm in Baker, GA were 196 Semipalmated Sandpipers 15 May (NF, JM) and 29 White-rumped Sandpipers 30 May (LGr). Four Stilt Sandpipers were early near the Cedar I., NC ferry terminal 25 Mar (JF, JFe); similar arrival dates were logged from Virginia and New Jersey this spring. An ad. female Red-necked Phalarope stood out at Pea Island N.W.R., NC 30 May (AW et al.), while 87 were off Hatteras, NC 22 May (BPI).

The wintering **Black-headed Gull** remained in Chatham, GA until at least 18 Mar, by then sporting debonair alternate plumage (m.ob.).

Single Little Gulls were picked out of flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls at L. Crabtree, NC 9 Mar (AI) and at Emerald Isle, NC 10 Mar (SW). An inland Lesser Black-backed Gull was notable at Falls L., NC 5 Mar (SW), as was a first-cycle Glaucous Gull at North Topsail Beach, NC 5 Apr (GG). Possibly displaced by Tropical Storm *Beryl*, a **Brown Noddy** perched on Navy tower R7 in Beaufort, SC 31 May (KB et al.) provided only the 2nd spring record for the state. Four Arctic Terns were observed off



Remaining into spring (here 8 March 2012) was this adult Black-headed Gull outside Savannah, Georgia. Records of the species have increased markedly in the Southeast since the 2000s, particularly in North Carolina; it was quite a rare bird in the region in the twentieth century. Photograph by Lauren Deaner.

Hatteras, NC 20 May (BPI). Three lingering Dovekies were spotted from a pier at Wrightsville Beach, NC 25 Mar (AI).

Reports of White-winged Doves were numerous: one at Wrightsville Beach, NC 25 Mar (AI); a winter bird at Savannah, GA last observed 14 Apr (SWa); one at Goldsboro, NC 29 Apr–14 May (MBr); and one at Morehead City, NC 17-21 May (CR). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was still in Buxton Woods, Buxton, NC 4 Apr (SC, NG). On territory in North Carolina at the s. limit of their breeding range were 3 along the Blue Ridge Parkway the Balsam Mts. 29 Mar and singles in the Big Ivy area 2 Apr, at Cherry Log Ridge 7 May, at Beetree Gap in the Craggy Mts. 16 May, at Devil's Courthouse 19 May, and at Mt. Mitchell S.P. 26 May (all MS, MW et al.). Urban Peregrine Falcons appear to be thriving in Atlanta, Georgia: a pair was present at Buckhead Station throughout the period (CC), following the sighting of a bird near Perimeter Mall 27 Mar (LC), a 2nd was confirmed the following day, and the pair had successfully hatched 2 chicks by 24 May (b. JO).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was calling in Polk, NC 23 May (CK), and an impressive 29 Alder Flycatchers were tallied during a survey in the Balsam Mts., NC 19 May (fide MW). In Georgia, Willow Flycatchers occupied annual outposts in Union and Rabun (m.ob.), while one singing in Bibb 26 May was far s. of regular nesting sites, at a location where breeding was documented six years ago (KC, JG, TI); a Least Flycatcher on Little St. Simon's I. 17 Apr (GB) may represent the first spring record s. of the fall line. A Great Crested Flycatcher in Coffee, GA 7 Mar (AB) represented a new state early arrival date. A Gray Kingbird was at Ft. Fisher, NC 30 Apr–3 May (GM, ph. RCL, m.ob.). A pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers returned to

Piedmont, SC 28 Apr (BD, JK), but only an ad. male reappeared at Pendleton, SC 3 May (EP). A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was well photographed at Edisto Beach, SC 3 Apr (ph. CKo), representing only the 2nd state record.

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

A singing Warbling Vireo was noted at Raleigh, NC 4 May (ELB, RW et al.), and a pair nested at the site later in the month (m.ob.). Red-eyed Vireos arrived extraordinarily early this spring, with several notable records: singles in *Halifax*, NC 26 Mar (RD); in *Pender*, NC 26 Mar (ML); in *Floyd*, GA 29 Mar (DR); and at K.M.T. 29 Mar (PR); stunning for the date, 16 were at Cloudland Canyon S.P., GA 31 Mar (JM). Away from mt. strongholds, Common Ravens were reported at Umstead S.P., NC 4 Mar (BB); at Duke University, Durham, NC 25 Mar (DS); at Uwharrie N.E., NC 8 Apr (AT); and 4, including fledglings, at Mayo River S.P., NC 10 May (MWa). Three Lapland Longspurs were at Sam Smith Park, Bartow, GA 3 Mar (ph. GK).

An Ovenbird was very early at K.M.T. 1 Apr (NF, JM), as was a Swainson's Warbler in *Chattahoochee*, GA 25 Mar (m.ob.), tying the state's early date; 2 of the latter were singing even farther n. in *Onslow*, NC 1 Apr (JF). Region-wide, there were seven confirmed reports of Connecticut Warblers, all 4-17 May. A female **MacGillivray's Warbler** on Skidaway I., GA 8 Apr furnished the state's 5th record and the first for spring (ph. RWi). A Kentucky Warbler in *Calhoun*, GA 24 Mar (WS) tied the earliest pub-

lished spring date, and an American Redstart in *Greene*, GA 1 Apr (JH, PWS) represented a new early arrival date for the Piedmont ecoregion. Surveys of the Roanoke R. breeding population of Cerulean Warblers yielded 4 near Weldon, NC 6 May (FE) and 6 in the same general area 19 May (NFI et al.). A Magnolia Warbler singing along the Bald Knob Ridge Trail at Mt. Mitchell S.P., NC 24 May+ (MW et al.) was suggestive of breeding in the area. An ad. male Black-throated Blue Warbler at a birdbath in *Fairfield*, SC 8 Mar (*fide* DSI) was baffling: though the species is casual on the immediate coast in winter, a record in the interior on such an early date is truly exceptional. Likewise ahead of schedule was a singing Black-throated Green Warbler in *Dawson*, GA 17 Mar (TH), providing the Blue Ridge ecoregion with a new early arrival date. Although recently confounded by increased documentation of wintering birds, 2 Yellow-breasted Chats singing at Chickasawhatchee W.M.A., *Calhoun*, GA 8 Apr (WS) likely represented a new state early arrival date.

At least 2 wintering Clay-colored Sparrows remained at North River Farms, *Carteret*, NC 11 Mar (JF, JFe), while a rare spring migrant was in *Cobb*, GA 18 Apr (ph. J&AH). Lark Sparrows were detected in established breeding areas in *Scotland*, NC 23 Apr (ph. JB) and at nearby Ft. Bragg, NC 29 Apr (*fide* SCA); there were six reports of Lincoln's Sparrows Regionwide. A Scarlet Tanager was rather early at Piedmont N.W.R., GA 1 Apr (PH). An imm. Western Tanager visited a yard on Hilton Head I., SC 4-7 Mar (ph. SA), while an ad. male at a feeder in Durham, NC 26 Mar (DZ, *fide* SW) was likely a returning individual from Feb. Yet another early bird, an Orchard Oriole in *Bulloch*, GA 18 Mar (BBr) provided a new early date for the Coastal Plain ecoregion. At least 2 Red Crossbills frequented feeders in *Rabun*, GA 25-26 May (CS), and a high count of 10 was recorded at Balsam Gap, NC 30 May (MW, MS).

Contributors: Patrick Addy, Stanton Allaben, Mirko Basen, Jeff Beane, Giff Beaton, Erla Lynn Beegle, Annette Bittaker, Ken Blankenship, Brian Bockhahn, Brenda Brannen (BBr), Mary Bridges (MBr), Rebecca Byrd, Susan Campbell (SCa), Jane Chew, Ken Clark, Ron Clark (RCI), Sarah Clark, Carl Crowley, Leslie Curran, Brad Dalton, Ricky Davis, Jim Edwards, Frank Enders, Nathan Farnau, Jack Fennell (JFe), Nick Flanders (NFI), Jim Flynn, Jr. (JFI), Wayne For-



Previously recorded in the Southern Atlantic region as a vagrant only in the fall, this MacGillivray's Warbler was certainly a surprise on Skidaway Island, Georgia on 8 April 2012. Photograph by Russ Wigh.



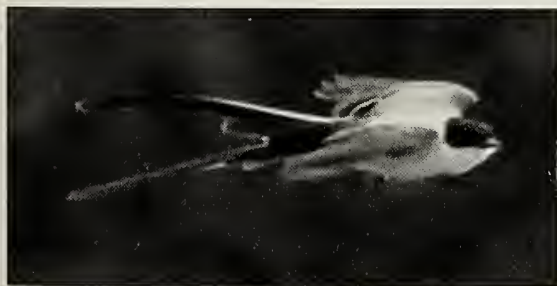
Arriving in Bartow County, Georgia on the heels of strong north-westerly winds were three Lapland Longspurs, very uncommon so far south, on 3 March 2012. Photograph by Gene Koziaro.

sythe, Mark Freeman, John Fussell, Lena Galitano, Nathan Gatto, Jim Gilreath, Rob Gilson, Gilbert Grant, Larry Gridley (LGr), Richard Hall, Jim Hanna, Jr. (JH), Theresa Hartz, Jim & Allison Healy, Pam Higginbotham, Earl Horn, Ty Ivey, Ali Iyob, Matt Johnson, Christine Kelly, Eric Kershner, Tim Keyes, Connie Kogler (CKo), Gene Koziara, Jane Kramer, Carol Lambert, Vanessa Lane, Jeff Lewis, Merrill Lynch, Dwayne Martin, Greg Massey, Joel McNeal, Eddie Owens, Jim Ozier, Brian Patteson, Inc., Ed Pivorun, James Pope, Paul Raney, Carol Reigle, Dan Roper, Tom Sanders, Wayne Schaffner, Georgann Schmalz, Jeff Sewell, Mark Simpson, Chris Skelton, Donna Slyce (DSI), Dave Snyder, John Stanton (JSt), Ann Stewart, Paul W. Sykes, Jr. (PWS), Andrew Thornton, Mike Tove, Steve Wagner (SWa), Martin Wall (MWa), Marilyn Westphal, Audrey Whitlock, Randy Whittington, Russ Wigh (RWi), Johnny Wilson, Scott Winton, Della Zimmerman. ☼

Ken Blankenship, 200 River Vista Drive, Unit 731
Atlanta, Georgia 30339, (kenhblankenship@comcast.net)
Richard Hall, Odum School of Ecology,
140 East Green Street, University of Georgia,
Athens, Georgia 30602, (rjh@uga.edu)
Josh Southern, 4100-A Reavis Road, Raleigh,
North Carolina 27606, (joshsouthern79@gmail.com)



Although considered a very uncommon species in the Southeast, Long-tailed Jaeger is frequently observed on pelagic trips off Hatteras Island, North Carolina during spring migration, as here on 27 May 2012. Photograph by Brion Potteson.



Always a popular vagrant, this Fork-tailed Flycatcher showed off its aerial skills at Edisto Beach, South Carolina on 3 April 2012. Photograph by Connie Kogler.



Bruce H. Anderson

After mid-March, pressure gradients were mostly flat, as the jet stream drifted north of Florida. Migrants were scarce, and the Duncans characterized the early spring as the worst ever in the panhandle. On 21 April, a developing low in the Gulf together with rain produced a modest fallout at Fort Pickens, Escambia County, and the pattern was broken. But, unfortunately for the panhandlers and the the big bend Gulf coast birders, strong westerly winds behind the front brought thousands of trans-Gulf migrants to the Gulf coast of the peninsula and the Keys!

From 22 through 27 April, mostly trans-Gulf migrants stacked up along the Gulf coast from Pinellas County south to Key West and Dry Tortugas National Park, Monroe County, with countless warblers such as Tennessee and Black-throated Green, trees full of orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks, and more—and of course, Merlins dining throughout the day on these alternate-plumaged gems. At the infamous drip on Garden Key, Dry Tortugas National Park, one or two Cattle Egrets were stationed to occasionally dine on a few of the myriad warblers attempting to drink. Then on 1 May, a wave of migrants invaded Key West estimated as high as 75,000 individuals (Carl Goodrich). This fallout included most of the peninsula's regular migrant species such as Black-throated Blue Warblers that comprised over 25% of the total, and thousands of American Redstarts, Ovenbirds, Common Yellowthroats, Black-and-white Warblers, and Gray Catbirds.

Tropical Storm Beryl developed on 26 May from a low-

pressure system in the Caribbean that produced heavy rainfall in the southern peninsula. It acquired tropical characteristics as it tracked northward in the Atlantic, and by 27 May, it was declared a tropical storm less than 190 km off northern Florida. On 28 May, Beryl came ashore near Jacksonville Beach, Duval County, with winds of 61 knots, after which it weakened into a tropical depression. Bird-wise, Beryl was quite uneventful in the state.

Abbreviations/definitions:

big bend (the part of Florida from the Apalachicola R. through Jefferson); FLMNH (Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville); F.O.S.R.C. (Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee); L. Apopka (L. Apopka Restoration Area, Orange unless otherwise stated); panhandle (that part of Florida from the Apalachicola R. through Escambia); Paynes Prairie (Paynes Prairie Preserve S.P., Alachua); record (only those reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence); report (any observation); S.T.A. (Stormwater Treatment Area); S.T.F. (Spray Treatment Fields); Viera Wetlands (Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands, Viera, Brevard).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, rare at n. extremes in the state, included 5 at Atlantic Beach, Duval 9 May (Sandra Hunter) and, in Escambia, 4 at Pensacola 15 May (Becky McQueen) and 2 at Cantonment 28 May (JC). Remaining from winter, a male Cinnamon Teal stayed at Merritt Island N.W.R., Brevard through 3 Mar (JoS, MH), and another remained at Spring Hill, Hernando through 26 Mar (A&BH). A single Canvasback at Sanford, Seminole 18 Apr (GB) and 2 at Newnans L., Alachua 23 Apr (CGr, AZ) were late. Other late diving ducks included 2 Redheads at Palm Harbor, Pinellas 13 May (BPr,

VP); a Greater Scaup at Dunedin, Pinellas 2 May (Jim Wells et al.); a Lesser Scaup at Altamonte Springs 9 May (GB) and 2 at Sarasota's Celery Fields Park 29 May (RiG, Judy Fisher); a Surf Scoter at Bunche Beach, Lee 10 May (VM); and 4 Ruddy Ducks at Newnans L. 1 Apr+ (AZ et al.). A male **Harlequin Duck** photographed at Mangrove Park, Boynton Beach, Palm Beach Apr–9 May (ph. Jack Rudy) may have been the same bird photographed in the West Palm Beach area during winter 2009-2010. A Long-tailed Duck patrolled the coast along Courtney Campbell Causeway, Hillsborough/Pinellas 1-6 Mar (Jim Boone et al.). Rare inland were 4 Red-breasted Mergansers at L. Apopka 4 May (HR) and a migrating Red-throated Loon over Gainesville, Alachua 10 Apr (AKR). Some 46 Common Loons were in one flock over Paynes Prairie 31 Mar (Bob Carroll).

A moribund **Northern Fulmar** was found at Cocoa Beach, Brevard 20 Nov (fide AKR, *FLMNH). Rarely reported along the Gulf coast, a Wilson's Storm-Petrel was studied 20 km off Clearwater Pass, Pinellas 30 May (Stan Czaplicki). About 60 ad. Masked Boobies were counted at Hospital Key, Dry Tortugas N.P. 26 Apr, and en route to the Tortugas, 5 Brown Boobies were seen perched on a buoy (BHA et al.). Away from the Florida Straits and Dry Tortugas N.P., lone imm. Brown Boobies visited Alafia Banks Sanctuary, Hillsborough 3 Apr (Mark Rachal) and Ponce de Leon Inlet, Volusia 8-9 May (MBr). With breeding Neotropic Cormorants recorded at Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Palm Beach in winter 2011-2012, Berney visited the site regularly this spring and identified 3 ad. Neotropics and one presumed hybrid (Double-crested Cormorant x Neotropic Cormorant); one ad. was seen feeding a juv. several times, verifying the first breeding record of Neotropic in Florida. The winter's Great Cormorant at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P., Miami-Dade continued all spring (RD et al.). Inland Brown Pelicans continue to increase, with one at L. Istokpoga, Highlands 5 Apr (Mike McMillian) and as many as 20 at Newnans L. 8-29 May (LD, JMa et al.).

A late American Bittern was at L. Apopka 6 May (HR). Six Great White Herons loitered at S.T.A. 5 on 12 May (ME et al.), while 2 remained from winter at Merritt Island N.W.R. through 6 May (PH et al.), and one wandered n. to Newnans L. 13 May+ (Jason Fidorra et al.). At L. Apopka, lone ad. White-faced Ibis were identified 25-28 Mar (basic plumage) and 1 Apr (alternate plumage; HR). Imm. Roseate Spoonbills continue to spread throughout the interior of the peninsula. Inland, nesting ad. spoonbills were observed at T. M. Goodwin W.M.A., Brevard 8 Mar



Dry Tortugas National Park, Monroe County, Florida hosted this very rare Baird's Sandpiper 23 April 2012. Photograph by Larry Manfredi.



Up to two Black Noddies loitered at Bush Key, Dry Tortugas National Park, Monroe County, Florida 25 April (here) through 9 May 2012. Though this site is the most reliable location to find the species in the United States, it has been absent in several recent spring seasons there. Photograph by Larry Manfredi.

(DaS) and 13 Apr (Carolyn Cimino) and at St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park, St. Johns; spoonbills have been recorded nesting in St. Augustine since spring 2010, with five nests found in 2011 and three in spring 2012 (Terry Jennings); this location is farther n. than spoonbills have nested in Florida historically. A record of a spoonbill pair seen nesting at L. Apopka 9 Jun 2011 (HR), a new inland location, only recently came to light.

A high count of 93 Swallow-tailed Kites was tallied in Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa from 27 Feb through 13 Mar (fide RAD). Two very rare White-tailed Kites along Research Rd., Everglades N.P., Miami-Dade 30 May (Andy Lantz, Eva Matthews) have inhabited this area for at least a decade. Rarely seen in migration in the peninsula s. of the breeding range, single Mississippi Kites were noted at Ormond Beach, Volusia 9-13 May (MBr, Steve Petruniak) and at s. Merritt I. 28 Mar (DF). Lingering were single Northern Harriers at St. Petersburg, Pinellas 19 May (Sue Tavaglione) and L. Apopka 23 May (HR). Both of unknown but questionable provenance, the resident **Great Black-Hawk** at Virginia Key Beach Park, Miami-Dade was observed four times in the period 10 Mar–29 Apr (RD), and a **Harris's Hawk** at Cantonment 27 Apr (Emily Allen) was found injured and taken to a local rehabilitator (fide RAD); there are no accepted reports of either species in Florida. Single Short-tailed Hawks were identified n. to Six Mile Marina, St. Johns 16 Mar (Diana Doyle) and Florida State College, Jacksonville 15 May (Terry West), with as many as 3 at Newnans Lake C.A. 26 May+ (RR, MM et al.). Rare was a light-morph ad. Swainson's Hawk over Key West 24 Apr (BHA).

RAILS THROUGH CARACARAS

A migrant King Rail was identified at St. George Island S.P., Franklin 6 May (Rodney Cassidy). Far n. were juv. Sandhill Cranes with ads. in Baker at Osceola N.F. 2 Apr and Bethea S.F. 29 Apr (Bob Richter). Two American Golden-Plovers paused at T. M. Goodwin W.M.A. 5 Apr

(MG, DF). Forty-eight Piping Plovers at Three Rooker I., Pinellas 23 Mar (BPr, VP) made the season's high count, as did 650 Red Knots at Huguenot Memorial Park, Duval 10 Apr (Patrick Leary). A Killdeer on eggs at Palm Harbor 12 Mar (Erik Haney) was early. Unusual inland was an American Avocet at L. Jesup, Seminole 28 Mar (GB). At Newnans L., 2 avocets 30 Apr+ (RR, MM et al.), a Willet 21–22 Apr (CGr et al.), 5 Whimbrels 22 Apr (JMa), and 2 Ruddy Turnstones (AKr et al.) were all of interest. Also drawn to low water levels at Newnans L. were up to 1800 Semipalmated Sandpipers 11 Apr+ (RR, John Hintermister et al.) and as many as 60 White-rumped Sandpipers 24 Apr+ that increased to 300 with Tropical Storm Beryl (RR, CGr et al.). Other unusual shorebird reports included an Upland Sandpiper at Phipps Pt., Franklin 25 Apr (JMu) and another at Fort De Soto Park 28 Apr (JMu); a Long-billed Curlew at Fort De Soto Park 1 Mar–22 Apr (RoS et al.); 2 Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Fort Walton Beach S.T.F., Okaloosa 13 Apr (L&RAD); and a Ruff at Merritt Island N.W.R. 13–15 May (ReG et al.). At Dry Tortugas N.P., a very rare Baird's Sandpiper was documented 23 Apr (ph. LaM), and White-rumped Sandpiper was seen 25–26 Apr (BHA et al.). Casual anywhere on the Gulf Coast, a Purple Sandpiper paused at Nokomis, Sarasota 1 Mar (Kathryn Young et al.). Phalaropes are very rare in spring, so single Wilson's Phalaropes at Newnans L. 27–29 Apr (Bob Simons, John Killian et al.) and 31 May (LD), and 2 Red-necked Phalaropes there 27 Mar (Judy Bryan), were unexpected. Elsewhere, Wilson's Phalaropes were at Fort Walton Beach S.T.F. 13 Apr (one; L&RAD) and St. Marks N.W.R. 28 Apr (5; JMu). A Red-necked Phalarope was nearby at Bald Point S.P., Franklin 19 May (Jean Simpson).

Lone Franklin's Gulls visited Newnans L. 15 May (RR, MM et al.) and Matanzas Inlet, St. Johns 27 May (MBr). At Daytona Beach Shores, Volusia, a first-cycle **Thayer's Gull** was identified 9 Mar, as was a first-cycle Iceland Gull 13 Mar (MBr). At nearby Port Orange, Volusia, a similar Iceland Gull was found 16 Mar (MBr). Single first-cycle Glaucous Gulls paused at Ponce de Leon Inlet 28 Mar (MBr), Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve 15 Mar (Diane Reed), and Port Orange 31 Mar (MBr). Up to 2 **Black Noddies** at Dry Tortugas N.P. were at Bush Key 25 Apr–9 May (LMA, Nick Bonomo). Rare in spring, up to 6 **Black Terns** were spotted at Newnans L. 28 May+ (AKr, MM et al.). Eighteen very early Rose-

ate Terns were off Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P., Key West 26 Mar (CGd); several of these terns, seldom verified off the Atlantic coast, were reported off the beaches in Palm Beach 19 Apr and Broward 23 Apr (RuT et al.) without details. Rare inland, a Common Tern was at Newnans L. 4 May (LD et al.). Only the 2nd record for Florida of an apparently pure **Elegant Tern** came from a photograph taken at North Lido Beach, Sarasota 25 May (acc., RiG). A rather shocking record so far inland, anywhere in the United States, was a live **Dovekie** found in a backyard w. of US-1 at Edgewater, Volusia 5 May (fide MBr, *FLMNH). In winter, a Razorbill was found moribund in Broward 16 Dec (fide AKr, *FLMNH).

White-winged Doves at Atlantic Beach, Duval 31 Mar (14; Donald Pridgen), St. George Island S.P. 18 Apr (one; Jim Cavanagh), and near Live Oak, Suwannee 20 May (8; BAH et al.) were n. and e. of the species' known breeding range in Florida. Mangrove Cuckoos were reported n. to Hugh Taylor Birch S.P., Broward 7 May (one; RuT) and Weedon Island Preserve, Pinellas 12 May+ (2; TM, RoS). Black-billed Cuckoos were identified at three sites along the Gulf coast: 2 at Fort De Soto Park 22–24 Apr (Tom Palik et al.); one at Sanibel Lighthouse, Lee 24–25 Apr (VM, CE et al.); and one at St. George Island S.P. 13 May (JMu); however, only one site on the Atlantic had a report, of one at Turkey Creek Sanctuary, Brevard 24 Apr (BiH). Two endangered Smooth-billed Anis were reported near Ft. Lauderdale Airport, Broward 11 Mar (RuT), while single Groove-billed Ani sightings came from L. Apopka 28–30 Mar and 11–13 Apr (HR) and Fort Pickens, Gulf Islands N.S. 24 Mar (B&JC).

Rarely reported from the mainland, an Antillean Nighthawk was heard calling at Kendall, Miami-Dade 3 May (JHB); more expected was one at Marathon, Monroe 27 Apr (BHA, MBr). Late Eastern Whip-poor-wills included 2 singles in song at Alligator Point 18 May (JMu) and Live Oak, Suwannee 20 May (Dave Stock,



The surprise of the season in Florida was this Dovekie in alternate plumage found alive in an inland backyard at Edgewater, Volusia County 5 May 2012. Photograph by Michael Brothers.



A Thick-billed Vireo visited Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, Broward County, Florida 7 (here) and 8 May 2012. Photograph by Nick Bonomo.



Florida's seventh ever, this one-day Varied Thrush stopped in at Golden Gate Estates, Collier County 23 April 2012. Photograph by Renee Wilson.

David Hartgrove). A Calliope Hummingbird at Cantonment 5 Mar–5 Apr (B&JC, Laura Catterton, Fred Bassett) was the 6th in the panhandle since the beginning of last winter! A late Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Honeymoon Island S.P. 29 Apr (S. Robinson). Far out of its s. and cen. peninsula range was a Crested Caracara in the big bend at Apalachicola, Franklin 11 Mar (Sally & Stephen Bru).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Vermilion Flycatcher was found at St. Marks N.W.R. 10 Mar (JMu), and 2 males that wintered at Orlando Wetlands Park, Orange remained through 10 Mar (ReG). Five reports of single Ash-throated Flycatchers came from the

n. peninsula and panhandle, two of these first reported in winter: Orange L., *Alachua* through 14 Mar (LD); Paynes Prairie 17 Mar (CGr, AKe); se. of Dade City, *Pasco* through 23 Mar (DBo); L. Apopka 25 Apr (HR); and Fort Walton Beach S.T.F. 24 Mar (L&RAD et al.). The only report of Brown-crested Flycatcher was from L. Apopka 9–11 May (HR). The La Sagra's Flycatcher first noted at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. in fall 2011 remained through 22 Apr (RD et al.), and a one-day wonder was identified at Spanish River Park, Palm Beach 2 May (RSc et al.). A silent Tropical/Couch's Kingbird was at Destin, Okaloosa 6 May (p.a., ph. Bruce Purdy), while the Cassin's Kingbird at S.T.A. 5, where one has wintered for at least four years, remained through 10 Mar (ME et al.). Very unusual in the spring in the n. peninsula away from the Gulf, Western Kingbirds were at Gainesville 2–9 Mar (2; AKr, LD et al.), The Villages, Marion 19 Mar (one; James Dinsmore), and Jacksonville 1 Apr (2; Kevin Dailey). The Gray Kingbird that wintered at Viera Wetlands remained through 18 Mar (BiH).

A Thick-billed Vireo was photographed at Hugh Taylor Birch S.P. 7–8 May (RuT et al.). Other vireo reports of note included a Bell's Vireo at Richardson Park, Broward 2–12 Apr (RuT) and a Warbling Vireo at Fort De Soto Park 23 Apr (JMn). On the tail of a report of breeding in s. Georgia, an assumed pair of Tree Swallows remained at Lake Harbor, Palm Beach through 5 May, with the female remaining throughout the season (MBe, BrH). A late Tree Swallow passed through L. Apopka 25 May (HR). More than 50 ad. Cliff Swallows were found at four Palm Beach breeding colonies 31 Mar+ (MBe, BrH et al.) for the 2nd year of observation; also for the 2nd year, a pair nested at the SR-50 bridge, St. Johns R., Orange (PH, Lori Mathis). Cave Swallows, presumably of the sw. subspecies, were found at Holiday, *Pasco* 20 Apr (one; DGa, Charlie Fisher) and Milton, *Santa Rosa* 26 May (2; Peggie Baker, Carol Tebay). *Catharus* thrushes passed through in about average numbers. Wood Thrushes were reported from the cen. and s. peninsula in slightly higher numbers, including single singing males at Eagle Point Park, *Pasco* 22–24 Apr (DGa, BPr) and Lake Lotus

Park, *Seminole* 3 May (GB), plus 5 at Naples, Collier 25 Apr (Theodore & Virginia Below). A Varied Thrush at Golden Gate Estates, Collier 23 Apr (Renee Wilson) furnished Florida's 7th record. Single Bahama Mockingbirds were seen at Spanish River Park 4 May (LaM, RSc) and unexpectedly far n. at Port Canaveral, *Brevard* 26–28 Apr (MH et al.). A Common Myna flew in from the Florida Straits to Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P. 24 Apr (BHA et al.). Two Sprague's Pipits at Apalachicola were last reported 11 Apr (JMu).

Twenty-nine warbler species were reported this spring, with highlights including: single Golden-winged Warblers at Honeymoon Island S.P. 22–23 Apr (Paul Trunk) and Eagle Point Park 23–24 Apr (DGa, DBo et al.); 15 Blue-winged Warblers in the peninsula, all along the Gulf coast except for one at Fern Forest, *Broward* 5 Mar (RuT et al.); about 100 Tennessee Warblers at Fort De Soto Park 22–23 Apr (RoS et al.); single Nashville Warblers at Gainesville 29 Mar (Ron Robinson) and Lori Wilson Park, *Brevard* 26 Apr (Phyllis Mansfield); 7 Swainson's Warblers at four locations on the Atlantic coast, plus singles on the Gulf coast at Fort De Soto Park 28 Apr (ReG) and Key West 1 May (*fide* MG); 12 Cerulean Warblers at four Gulf coast locations, and one inland at Altamonte Springs 17 May (GB); single Bay-breasted Warblers at Fort Zachary Taylor Historical S.P. 23 Apr (CGd, MG), at Green Key, *Pasco* 25 Apr, with 2 there 1 May (Ken Tracey et al.), and at Eagle Point Park 28 Apr (DGa et al.); 2 Blackburnian Warblers at Tarpon Springs, *Pinellas* 15 May (TM); 3 Chestnut-sided Warblers at Gainesville 20–26 Apr (Felicia Lee et al.) and 4 Key West 24 Apr (CGd, MG); a Black-throated Gray Warbler at Greynolds County Park, *Miami-Dade* 16–18 Mar (RD, MBr et al.); and single Wilson's Warblers at T. M. Goodwin W.M.A. 7 Mar (DaS), Gainesville 13–30 Mar (Eric & Ginny Rose et al.), and Bonner Park, *Pinellas* 30 Apr (JMn).

Following a winter with at least five reports of Green-tailed Towhee, only one remained into spring at Safety Harbor, *Pinellas* through 20 Apr (*fide* BAh); at a new location, a Green-tailed Towhee was discovered at Circle B Bar Reserve, *Polk* 10 Mar (acc., JMn). Only the 3rd for Florida, a Spotted Towhee, first discovered in winter at Gulf Breeze, remained until 13 Mar (RAD, Alex Harper). Another 3rd record was established by an American Tree Sparrow photographed at Titusville, *Brevard* 11 Apr (MH). Three single Lark Sparrows were each at Gulf coast locations, with another inland at Newberry, *Alachua* 11 Apr (Samuel Ewing et al.). Up to 31 Le Conte's Sparrows were counted at Orange L. from winter through 14 Apr (CGr, AKe et al.), a very high number for the



Furnishing just the third record for Florida, this American Tree Sparrow put in an appearance at Titusville, Brevard County 11 April 2012. Photographs by Mitchell Harris.

peninsula. Lincoln's Sparrows appear to be increasing as migrants, as well as winter residents, in Florida; this spring, 10 Lincoln's were reported from eight Gulf coastal locations, with one at Dry Tortugas N.P. 26 Apr (BHA et al.). A single stray Dark-eyed Junco appeared at Wesley Chapel, Pasco 29 Apr (Elizabeth Morgan).

Single Western Tanagers were at Williston, Levy from winter through 13 Mar (Timothy Street); Fort De Soto Park 23 Apr (Chris Rasmussen, Roy Morris); and Newnans L. 29 Apr–1 May (Linda Hensley, Steve Meredith et al.). A very rare Black-headed Grosbeak was a one-day wonder at Cedar Key Cemetery, Levy 22 Apr (Derrick Thrasher). Annual in winter in Florida, a male Lazuli Bunting visited feeders at Fort Myers, Lee 1–21 Apr (acc., VM et al.). Thirteen Dickcissels visited seven sites along the Gulf coast, with one inland at L. Apopka 27 Apr (HR), while at least 50 males were moving through the treetops at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P. 24 Apr (BHA et al.).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds were in near-normal numbers, with singles from winter at Myakka River S.P. through 1 Mar (Barry Rosshiem) and at Clewiston, Hendry through 21

Mar (Wes Biggs et al.); 2 were at Clermont, Lake 24 Mar (JoS) and one at Alligator Point 5 May (JMu, Deanna Murphy). The only Rusty Blackbirds reported in the peninsula were up to 60 at Gainesville from winter through 10 Mar (LD, AKe et al.). Brewer's Blackbirds, also remaining from winter, included up to 5 at DeLeon Springs, Volusia through 12 Mar (MBr), with a single at Bayport, Hernando through 19 Mar (Jim McKay). Twenty-six Boat-tailed Grackles visited Floridatown, Santa Rosa 13 Mar (L&RAD), where they are not known to breed. Reports of Shiny Cowbird, probably of birds newly arrived from the West Indies, included: one at Big Coppitt Key, Monroe 27 Apr (BHA, MBr), 3 at Flamingo, Everglades N.P., Monroe 18 Apr (RD), and singles at Everglades City, Collier 17 May (VM) and St. Petersburg all season (Don & Lorraine Margeson). Away from the breeding population in the se. peninsula, Bronzed Cowbird reports included up to 3 at Clewiston, Hendry 1 Mar (DaS) and one at Celery Fields Park 19 Mar and 27 Apr (Rosemary Harris, Jeanne Dubi). A rarity during winter 2011–2012, a late Pine Siskin visited Old Town, Dixie 8–14 Apr (Sharon Fronk).

Contributors (and members of the Florida Ornithological Society Field Observations Committee, in boldface): **Brian Ahern** (BAh), **Bruce H. Anderson**, Mark Berney (MBe), David Bowman (DBo), **John H. Boyd**, Greg & Dawn Bretz, Michael Brothers (MBr), Brenda & Jerry Callaway, **Kevin Daily** (KDi), Lloyd Davis, Robin Diaz, **Lucy & Robert A. Duncan**, Margaret England, **Charlie Ewell**, David Freeland, David Gagne (DGa), Murray Gardler, Reinhard Geisler (ReG), Carl Goodrich (CGd), Caleb Gordon (CGr), Rick Greenspun (RiG), Bill Haddad (BiH), **Al & Bev Hansen**, Mitchell Harris, Brian Hope (BrH), Adam Kent (AKe), Marianne Korosy, Andy Kratter (AKr), Mike Manetz, Larry Manfredi (LaM), John Mangold (JMn), John Martin (JMa), Tom Mast, Vince McGrath, **Paul Miller**, **John Murphy** (JMu), Valeri Ponzio, **Bill Pranty** (BPr), Harry Robinson, Rex Rowan, Rick Schofield (RSc), David Simpson (DaS), Ron Smith (RoS), Joyce Stephancic (JoS), Adam Zions. ☺

Bruce H. Anderson, 2917 Scarlet Road, Winter Park, Florida 32792, (scizortail@aol.com)

Ontario



Alan Wormington

The big weather event in Ontario during spring 2012 occurred in March. Across the entire province, it was a pleasant winter with below-normal snowfall and above-average temperatures—then in March, it just kept getting warmer and warmer.

In northern Ontario, the extended warm spell lasted 11–23 March at least. On 21 March, records were smashed just about everywhere, when the temperature hit 22° C at Thunder

Bay, 23° at Moosonee on southern James Bay, and, incredibly, 28° at Timmins! As is to be expected, most snow was gone by mid-March across the north, and many lakes were ice-free by late March or early April. The Moose River at Moosonee, which flows into southern James Bay, broke up on the exceptionally early date of 22 March. Average break-up of the river there is normally about 1 May, and the previous record-early break-up date was 10 April (fide EEH)! In the south, it was even warmer, which is to be expected, with the warm spell starting on 6 March and lasting through the month. The highest temperature recorded in the south during this period was 28° at Windsor (23 March). After March, the weather during the remainder of the spring across Ontario was generally normal, although many areas were distinctly drier than usual. The unprecedented warm weather in March resulted in an exceptionally long list of record-early arrivals at many locations (see Table 1).

Exceptional rarities during the period included Smew, Neotropical Cormorant, White Ibis,

Eurasian Whimbrel, Sabine's Gull, Mew (Common) Gull, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, an irruption of Fish Crows, Townsend's Warbler, Pink-sided Junco, and Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Abbreviations: H.S.A. (Hamilton Study Area), N.P.H. (Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch), Point Pelee (Point Pelee Birding Area, a standard C.B.C. circle centered just n. of Point Pelee N.P.). Ontario is divided into "north" and "south" regions along the 47° N latitude. In the text, a place name in *italics* refers to a county, district, or regional municipality.



Providing one of very few records for Ontario, this Eurasian Whimbrel (left) was at Etobicoke, Metropolitan Toronto 22 May 2012. Photograph by David J. Milsom.

WATERFOWL

Across the s., Greater White-fronted Goose was widely reported, with high counts including 25 at Cayuga, *Haldimand* 14 Mar (NSm), increasing to 30 there 16 Mar (JTh) for a H.S.A. record-high count; 12 at Ridgetown, *Chatham-Kent* 10 Mar (BAM); and 7 at Lucan, *Middlesex* 3-13 Mar (PSB, m.ob.); one at Hurkett, *Thunder Bay* 10 Apr (SJF) was a rarity for L. Superior. The Greater Snow Goose flight in e. Ontario was lighter than in past years, presumably due to a lack of snow and ice that would normally concentrate birds; the main flight passed through 16 Mar, with a portion moving northward and the rest moving eastward along the St. Lawrence R. into Québec (*fide* BLM). Ross's Goose continues to increase in the s., and this spring there were sightings of one at Whitby, *Durham* 2-4 Mar (CJA et al.), 2 at Point Pelee 10-30 Mar (JLH, SER, m.ob.), one at Bewdley, *Northumberland* 18 Mar (TLH), many sightings of mostly single birds generally e. of Ottawa 18 Mar-16 Apr (*fide* CALE), 4 at Winchester, *Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry* 14 Apr (MG, SGA), one at Whitby Harbour, *Durham* 2-4 Mar (CJA et al.), one at Ridgetown 3 Mar (JTB, SRC), one at Echo Bay, *Algoma* 1 Apr (DoH), and one at Kaiser Crossroad Wetland, *Prince Edward* 18-19 Apr (MWPR, JPR et al.). An early Brant was at Whitby 14 Apr (RRP et al.).

Eurasian Wigeon was found more frequently than usual, with 2 in *Haldimand* at Dunnville 26 Feb (CE) likely moving 12 km to the e. to just n. of Lowbanks 10 Mar, where one remained through 13 Mar (BSn et al.). Single birds were also at Brewers Mills, *Frontenac* 10 Mar (MRo et al.), Grand Bend, *Huron* 10 Mar (SJ), Townsend, *Haldimand* 12-27 Mar (KGDB et al.), Strathroy, *Middlesex* 18 Mar (JKM), Bourget, *Prescott and Russell* 22-24 Mar (JMB et al.), Aylmer, *Elgin* 2-4 Apr (m.ob.), Fort Erie, *Niagara* 3 Apr-3 May (AHu, m.ob.), Port Royal, *Norfolk* 8-9 Apr (DLe et al.), Featherstone Pt., *Haldimand* 8-25 Apr (AW), Cook's Bay, *York* 14 Apr (BB), Cushendall, *Frontenac* 15-29 Apr (m.ob.), Port Perry, *Durham* 27 Apr (DBW), and Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* 20 May (NGE, BJM, BDR); all reported birds were males. Single Eurasian Teal were found at Hillman Marsh, *Essex* 28 Mar-9 Apr (BRH, m.ob.) and Port Royal 8 Apr (SAM). Eurasian Teal x Green-winged Teal hybrids were at Hillman Marsh 15 Mar (BRH) and Tavistock, *Oxford* 22 Apr (JMH). The wintering imm. male King Eider at Hamilton Harbour since 22 Jan (MAV, m.ob.) was last reported 5 May; the same bird was suspected to have moved to Etobicoke, *Toronto*, where it remained 11-31 May+ (m.ob.). A King Eider at Point Pelee 1 Mar (AW, RPC) was a 2nd winter record locally, while another there 7 Apr (BAM) was a spring migrant. A scattering of Harlequin Ducks in the s. included 4 at Prince Edward Pt., *Prince Edward* 11 Mar (MWPR), 2 at Oakville, *Halton* 11-25 Apr (JV, m.ob.), 2 at Whitby 14 Apr-1 May (m.ob.), singles at Point Pelee

Table 1. Record-early occurrences during the month of March for local areas in Ontario, spring of 2012.

Species	Date (# of birds)	Site & County/District/Municipality	Observer(s)
Canada Goose	11 Mar (6)	Dryden, Kenora	JWD
Canada Goose	18 Mar (6)	Moosonee, Cochrane	LE
Wood Duck	7 Mar (1)	Navan, Ottawa	PJM
Wood Duck	15 Mar (2)	Howland Township, Manitoulin	CTB, RCT
Wood Duck	20 Mar (1)	Algonquin P.P. (Davies Bog)	RE
Gadwall	8 Mar (2)	Britannia, Ottawa	RW
Blue-winged Teal	9-10 Mar (2)	Rondeau townsite, Chatham-Kent	CA et al.
Blue-winged Teal	22 Mar (1)	Algonquin P.P. (Park Lake)	RGT
Ring-necked Duck	21 Mar (2)	Algonquin P.P. (West Smith Lake)	RGT
Bufflehead	21 Mar (1)	Algonquin P.P. (Lake of Two Rivers)	JFP
Hooded Merganser	21 Mar (2)	Eagle River, Kenora	CDE
Common Merganser	19 Mar (2)	Eagle River, Kenora	JTe
Ruddy Duck	23 Mar (2)	Nepean, Ottawa	JR
Red-throated Loon	16 Mar (1)	Presqu'île P.P., Northumberland	FMH
Double-crested Cormorant	15 Mar (2) **	Point Pelee, Essex	BRH, AW, RJC
Double-crested Cormorant	18 Mar (7)	Presqu'île P.P., Northumberland	FMH, AGC
Double-crested Cormorant	24 Mar (1)	Providence Bay, Manitoulin	CTB, RCT
American Bittern	17 Mar (1) **	Toronto, Toronto	ALA
American Bittern	20 Mar (1)	Long Point Causeway, Norfolk	APT
American Bittern	23 Mar (1)	Camden East, Lennox & Addington	PJG
Great Blue Heron	19 Mar (1)	Eagle River, Kenora	CDE
Great Blue Heron	20 Mar (2)	Algonquin P.P. (West Smith Lake)	RGT
Great Egret	14 Mar (1) **	Bronte, Halton	MWJ
Great Egret	21 Mar (1)	Presqu'île P.P., Northumberland	FMH
Green Heron	25 Mar (1) **	Crosby, Leeds and Grenville	JAHa
<i>Plegadis</i> ibis	23 Mar (1) **	Presqu'île P.P., Northumberland	RDM, RMy
Virginia Rail	17-19 Mar (1)	Brighton, Northumberland	MC et al.
Virginia Rail	25 Mar (2)	Dundas Marsh, Hamilton	JKB
Sandhill Crane	21 Mar (1+)	Algonquin P.P. (East Gate)	GFO
Killdeer	16 Mar (1)	Moosonee, Cochrane	DTC, KCh
Lesser Yellowlegs	22 Mar (1)	Presqu'île P.P., Northumberland	GMCD
Whimbrel	23-24 Mar (1) **	Kaiser Crossroad, Prince Edward	SD, PMSS et al.
Long-billed Dowitcher	21 Mar-6 Apr (1) **	Navan, Ottawa	RJC, PJM et al.
Wilson's Snipe	23 Mar (1)	Conn, Grey	PEJE
Caspian Tern	23 Mar (1) **	Presqu'île P.P., Northumberland	BMD
Forster's Tern	16 Mar (1) **	Corner Marsh, Durham	GC
Forster's Tern	27-29 Mar (1)	Hamilton, Hamilton	CES
Turkey Vulture	13 Mar (1)	Algonquin P.P. (Leaf Lake)	LH
Osprey	24 Mar (1)	Cambridge, Waterloo	JBFR
Northern Harrier	19 Mar (1)	Wabigoon, Kenora	CDE
Northern Harrier	19 Mar (1)	Algonquin P.P. (Lake of Two Rivers)	JFP
Long-eared Owl	23 Mar (1)	Algonquin P.P. (Lake of Two Rivers)	JFP et al.
Belted Kingfisher	21 Mar (1)	Algonquin P.P. (Smoke Creek)	LAT
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	9 Mar (1) **	Long Point Causeway, Norfolk	SAM
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	21 Mar (1)	Oakville, Halton	TJ, MJ
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	23 Mar (1)	Presqu'île P.P., Northumberland	BMD
Northern Flicker	8 Mar (1)	South Baymouth, Manitoulin	CTB, RCT
Merlin	18 Mar (1)	Moosonee, Cochrane	CJN, DTC
Peregrine Falcon	15 Mar (1)	Cultus, Norfolk	MTT

Species	Date (# of birds)	Site & County/District/Municipality	Observer(s)
Peregrine Falcon	16 Mar (1)	Stratton, Rainy River	MSD
Eastern Phoebe	8 Mar (3)	Point Pelee, Essex	MEC, DGM, KMM
Eastern Phoebe	8 Mar (2)	Aldershot, Halton	AMil
Eastern Phoebe	13 Mar (1)	Burpee Township, Manitoulin	DB
Eastern Phoebe	20 Mar (1)	Algonquin P.P. (East Gate)	JLo
Tree Swallow	14 Mar (7)	Port Rowan, Norfolk	RR, JRA, DLe
Tree Swallow	16 Mar (1)	London, Middlesex	JKM
Cliff Swallow	30 Mar (1)	Whitby, Durham	RRP
Barn Swallow	22 Mar (1)	Long Point Tip, Norfolk	SAM, RR
Barn Swallow	25 Mar (1)	Port Colborne, Niagara	BEF, JMF
Tufted Titmouse	20 Mar (1)	Point Pelee, Essex	JDV
White-breasted Nuthatch	14-16 Mar (1) **	Point Pelee, Essex (extreme Tip)	RJC, AW et al.
Winter Wren	13 Mar (1) **	Point Pelee, Essex	AW
Winter Wren	15 Mar (1)	Burlington, Halton	RCu, GJS
Winter Wren	18 Mar (3)	Billings Twp., Manitoulin	RCT
Winter Wren	18 Mar (1)	Algonquin P.P. (Big Pines Trail)	DHe
Winter Wren	19 Mar (1)	Nepean, Ottawa	RCo
Winter Wren	20 Mar (1)	Dinorwic Lake, Kenora	EMR
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	30 Mar (1)	Ashbridges Bay, Toronto	GB
Golden-crowned Kinglet	7-8 Mar (3)	Point Pelee, Essex	MEC et al.
Golden-crowned Kinglet	18 Mar (2)	Minnitaki, Kenora	CDE
Hermit Thrush	20 Mar (4)	Point Pelee, Essex	JDV, AW
American Robin	24 Mar (2)	Moosonee, Cochrane	EEH
American Pipit	13 Mar (1)	Cobourg, Northumberland	MJCB
Louisiana Waterthrush	21 Mar (1) **	Windsor, Essex	TJP
Pine Warbler	26 Mar (1)	Elginburg, Frontenac	EB
Pine Warbler	27 Mar (1)	Dorland, Oxford	JMH
Yellow-rumped Warbler	21 Mar (1)	Point Pelee, Essex	AW
Yellow-rumped Warbler	22 Mar (1)	Presqu'île P.P., Northumberland	BMD
Eastern Towhee	18 Mar (1)	Presqu'île P.P., Northumberland	MRo
Chipping Sparrow	13 Mar (1) **	Point Pelee, Essex	AW et al.
Chipping Sparrow	16-22 Mar (1)	Grimsby, Niagara	N.P.H.
Chipping Sparrow	20 Mar (1)	Constance Bay, Ottawa	JHS
Chipping Sparrow	30 Mar (1)	Eagle River, Kenora	JTe
Field Sparrow	15 Mar (1)	Oakville, Halton	MWJ
Vesper Sparrow	16 Mar (1)	Rossmount, Northumberland	MJCB
Savannah Sparrow	16 Mar (2)	Grimsby & Smithville, Niagara	RZD
Fox Sparrow	13-14 Mar (2)	Lonely Bay, Manitoulin	GP
Fox Sparrow	21 Mar (1)	Ottawa, Ottawa	PWH
Fox Sparrow	22 Mar (1)	Algonquin P.P. (Lake of Two Rivers)	MWPR
Swamp Sparrow	15 Mar (1)	Bronte, Halton	MWJ
Swamp Sparrow	21 Mar (1)	Presqu'île P.P., Northumberland	KL
White-throated Sparrow	11 Mar (1) **	Point Pelee, Essex	AW
Dark-eyed Junco	23 Mar (1)	Moosonee, Cochrane	EEH
Scarlet Tanager	26 Mar (1) **	Burns C.A., Halton	RT, AT
Red-winged Blackbird	23 Mar (2)	Moosonee, Cochrane	DGR
Eastern Meadowlark	20 Mar (2)	Algonquin P.P. (Lake of Two Rivers)	JFP
Common Grackle	21 Mar (3)	Moosonee, Cochrane	EEH
Purple Finch	17 Mar (1)	Dinorwic Lake, Kenora	EMR

A double asterisk after a date (**) indicates a definite or probable record-early date for Ontario as a whole.

28 Apr (GTH, KCa) and 13 May (JHS, RPS et al.), and one at Presqu'île P.P., *Northumberland* 15 May (WDG). A male Barrow's Goldeneye at L. Wolsey, *Manitoulin* 11-18 Mar (RCT et al.) may well have been the same bird present there the previous spring (on 4-5 Apr); another male at Asphodel Beach, Rice L., *Peterborough* 29 Mar-6 Apr (SGi, m.ob.) was especially rare for being inland from the Great Lakes. A male *Smew* at Long Point (Inner Bay), *Norfolk* 8-11 Mar (RR et al.) was locally a 2nd record and 5th overall for Ontario.

GREBES THROUGH RAILS

An impressive count of 3414 Red-necked Grebes was attained from Etobicoke to Rattway Marsh, *Peel* 3 Apr (WER, DaH), an 11-km stretch of L. Ontario shoreline. Single Eared Grebes in *Rainy River* at Rainy Lake (Northwest Bay) 4 May (TLH) and Emo 5 May (TLH) and 28 May (KRS et al.) were rarities for the north. There were as many as 5 at Point Pelee 25 Apr-13 May (*fide* AW), and other singles in the s. were at Big Creek N.W.A., *Norfolk* 1 Apr (JDV et al.), Thicksons Bay, *Durham* 12-14 Apr (GC et al.), Blenheim, *Chatham-Kent* 28-29 Apr (IMR et al.), and Long Point (Squires Ridge) 17 May (SAM). A Western Grebe at Oshawa harbor, *Durham* 24 Apr (JAHo et al.) and another at Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton* 24-25 Apr (RZD, m.ob.) made the only reports of the species. An ad. *Neotropic Cormorant* at Pelee I., *Essex* 16 May (MVAB, KGDB) represented the 4th record for Ontario. There were numerous American White Pelican sightings scattered across the south: one at Rattway Marsh, *Peel* 11 May (WER), 6 at Holiday Beach C.A., *Essex* 12-13 May (BC, DSm, EWO, m.ob.), 18 at L. Manitou, *Manitoulin* 18 May (JH, TH), 3 at Mackey, *Nipissing* 20 May (JBo), 3 at Tobermory, *Bruce* 21 May (EJM et al.), and one at MacGregor Point P.P., *Bruce* 25 May (JAT). A Least Bittern picked up alive in a parking lot at Burlington, *Halton* 21 Apr (*fide* CEE) marked a record-early spring occurrence for H.S.A. A very early Great Blue Heron appeared at Moosonee, *Cochrane* 8 Apr (CJN). An ad. Snowy Egret at Port Maitland, *Haldimand* 19-23 May (AW, m.ob.) was, surprisingly, the only report for the province. An ad. Little Blue Heron at Point Pelee 17-20 May (GEH et al.) may have been the same as the one about 28 km to the n. at Lighthouse Cove, *Essex/Chatham-Kent* 23 May (RWW), especially as these were the only reported sightings. Cattle Egret was surprisingly scarce, limited to just one at Big Creek N.W.A. 7 May (DVW, GFi et al.), one at Point Pelee 10 May (JLH, MBR et al.), and 2 at Morpeth, *Chatham-Kent* 10 May (BW et al.). Very rare for Algonquin P.P., *Nipissing* was a Green Heron at Lake of Two Rivers 20 May (WJC, RMy). Two imm. *White Ibis* flew over Long Point (Old Cut) 11 May (SAM et al.), for just the 7th Ontario record. Single Glossy Ibis were found at Port Rowan, *Norfolk* 27-30 Mar (VM et al.) and Ravenshoe Flats, *York* 31 May (FP et al.).

A White-faced Ibis at St. Clair N.W.A. 11 May (JLH, MSF, AEK, FAP, RVP) represents a first record for Chatham-Kent. Reports of unidentified *Plegadis* ibis included one at Hillman Marsh 20 Apr (JD), 3 at Pelee Marsh, Essex 21 Apr (DMB, BNC, JBFr), and one at Mitchell's Bay, Chatham-Kent 15-31 May (MSF, KS et al.).

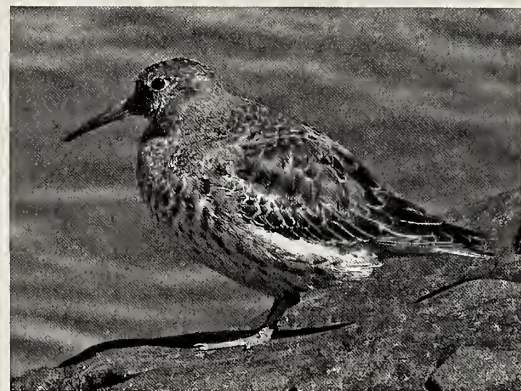
Sightings of Black Vulture in the s. were again widespread, especially at Grimsby, Niagara, where birds seen in active migration included one 16 Mar (record-early for H.S.A.), 2 on 22 Mar, and singles 2, 12, & 26 Apr (all N.P.H.); others were at Hamilton Mountain, Hamilton 23 Mar (LM, LTe), Point Pelee 24-26 Mar, with a 2nd bird there 25-26 Mar (both RPC, m.ob.), Hwys. 403 and 6, Hamilton 3 Apr (DRD), Presqu'île PP 11 Apr (RIS), Cayuga 13 Apr (MTT et al.), Warwick, Lambton 21-22 Apr (RMC et al.), Toronto Is. (GCP) to Leslie Street Spit, Toronto 22 Apr (AHJJ), n. of Turkey Point Marsh, Norfolk 26 Apr (JLa), between Grafton/Centreton, Northumberland 7 May (MJCB), and Waterford, Simcoe 24 May (TL). Six wintering birds were still at Queenston, Niagara 13 Mar (TLH et al.). A Swallow-tailed Kite at Udora, York 14 Apr (LAM, MSO, MRO, GAO) was both rare and record early for Ontario. Four sightings of Mississippi Kite was a good showing for this rare visitor: a first-year bird at Grimsby 12 May (RZD, CEE), an ad. at Grimsby 15 May (HMS, JS et al.), a first-year bird at Long Point (Old Cut) 22 May (WFR, SAM et al.), and an ad. at Port Rowan 28 May (JDM, RR). A Bald Eagle nest at Brantford, Brant contained eggs starting 29 Feb (*fide* WGL), which is exceptionally early, while a nest with 2+ young at Shirleys Bay 15 May+ was a first confirmed breeding record for Ottawa (*fide* CALE). A light-morph ad. Swainson's Hawk at Cabot Head, Bruce 6 May (MSS) was the sole report for the season. Single "ticking" Yellow Rails were heard at different locations at Carden Alvar, Kawartha Lakes 14-21 (JLK et al.) & 15 May (RJP), and other singing

singles were at Westbrook, Frontenac 5 May (JBFr), Pumpkin Pt., Algoma 8 May (TLH), and Goertimus I., Algoma 26 May (KAMk). There were no reported sightings of the endangered King Rail.

SHOREBIRDS

An incredible 5500 Black-bellied Plovers were counted at Hillman Marsh 21 May (GBC), almost certainly a high count for Ontario. Single Piping Plovers at Toronto Is. 20 Apr (DDB), Long Point PP 22 Apr (LTu), where joined by a 2nd bird 23 Apr (Tma, SAM, LTu), Long Point (Bluff Bar) 2 May (SAM), Presqu'île PP 15-18 May (RDM, SAEP et al.), Wildwood L., Oxford 17 May (DAM, LWI), Markham, York 22-25 May (SGL et al.), and Salmon I., Kingston, Frontenac 26 May (DVW) were all spring migrants. American Avocet sightings were limited to just 3 at Erieau, Chatham-Kent 2 May (JTB, m.ob.) and 5 at Point Pelee 6-7 May (PBM et al.), far fewer than normal. A Eurasian Whimbrel at Etobicoke 22 May (WER, TMc et al.) furnished one of only a few records for the province. Interesting Marbled Godwit sightings included 11 at Point Pelee 19 Apr (BRH, EWH et al.), one at Amherstview, Lennox and Addington 2 May (KH), one at Markham 15 May (SGL), one at Po-wassan, Parry Sound 15-17 May (RDT et al.), which was a 4th local record, and one at Dundas Marsh, Hamilton 30-31 May (JKB, m.ob.). A Red Knot at Point Pelee 9 May (JFP et al.) was locally record early; good counts for this declining species were 27 birds at Featherstone Pt. 22 May (AEK) and 56 at Spencer Pt., Northumberland 26 May (TLH). The only reports for Western Sandpiper, both of birds in basic plumage, were at Goertimus I. 26 May (KAMk,

KWZ) and Port Rowan 27-28 May (DMB, m.ob.), the latter making the 4th spring record for Long Point. Record early for their respective areas were single Least Sandpipers at Port Royal 9 Apr (SAM), Aylmer 14 Apr (DAM, LWI), and Presqu'île PP 18 Apr (RDM). A Baird's Sandpiper at Point Pelee 8-9 May (JHS, RPS et al.), one at Rainy River, Rainy River 21 May (DHE, MSD), and 8 at Goertimus I. 26 May (KAMk, KWZ) is a good showing for this very rare spring transient. A first-year Purple Sandpiper that almost certainly overwintered on L. Superior was discovered 29 Apr near Wilson I. in the Rossport Archipelago (CCD,



An amazing find was this Purple Sandpiper found foraging on a small islet within the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area, Thunder Bay District, Ontario on 29 April 2012. Photograph by Michael T. Butler.



This Mew Gull at Cobourg, Northumberland County on 1 March 2012 provided one of very few records for Ontario of the nominate subspecies. Photograph by Sherwood I. A. McLernon.

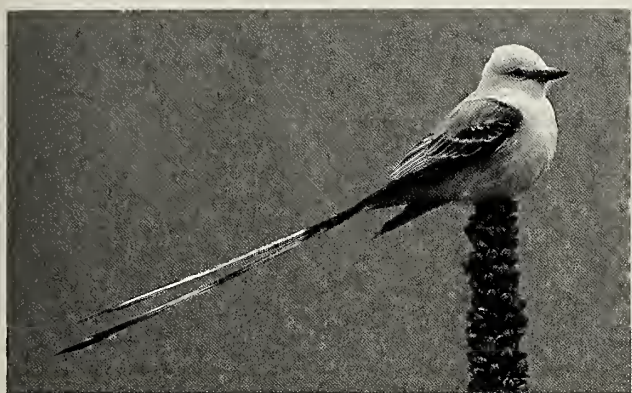
KJD, MTB, MLA); it represented the 2nd record for Thunder Bay. The only other report pertains to a spring migrant at Pelee I. 10 May (MVAB, KGDB). A Curlew Sandpiper at Hillman Marsh 25-27 May (DJW, m.ob.) established the 5th record for Point Pelee. The only Stilt Sandpipers found in the s. were singles at Blenheim 14 May (JLH, MSF et al.) and Hillman Marsh 15 May (GCP et al.). A Short-billed Dowitcher of the *hendersoni* subspecies at Hillman Marsh 20 Apr (JDV) was probably record early for Ontario. Various reports of Long-billed Dowitcher in the s. included one at Scanlon Creek C.A., Simcoe 20-22 Apr (SGL et al.), high counts at Hillman Marsh of 23 birds 1 May and 16 different birds there 4 May (m.ob.), 7 at Blenheim 3 May (AEK), and 2 at Port Royal 8-12 May (SAM et al.).

GULLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Amongst a massive flight of 13,300 Bonaparte's Gulls passing northeastward at Prince Edward Pt. 23 Apr was a single ad. Sabine's Gull in breeding plumage (DO), the first spring record ever for s. Ontario. Some high counts for Little Gull included 145 at Turkey Pt. 11 Mar (RR), 137 at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara 26 Mar (TLH), 59 at Prince Edward Pt. 23 Apr (DO),



When Laughing Gulls appear in Ontario, they normally do not remain in one location for more than a day or two, but this adult lingered at Nanticoke, Haldimand County 19-31 (here 31) May 2012, where it was very approachable. Photograph by Alan Wormington.



One of four Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in Ontario during spring 2012, this fine male was at Demorestville, Prince Edward County 14-17 (here 15) April 2012. Photograph by Joshua D. Vandermeulen.

and 43 at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* 28 Apr (TLH); an ad. at Rainy Lake (Northwest Bay) 5 May (TLH) established the first record for Rainy River. An ad. *Mew Gull* at Cobourg, *Northumberland* 1 Mar (REF et al.) provided one of few Ontario records of the nominate subspecies. Point Pelee's 10th *California Gull* 18-19 May (JI, m.ob.) was a first-cycle bird, a plumage rarely seen in Ontario. Record late for Point Pelee was a *Thayer's Gull* 28 May (WGL, KAMn, MJN, AW). A *Great Black-backed Gull* at Marathon, *Thunder Bay* 13 Mar (MTB) was a rarity for L. Superior. Laughing Gull sightings were limited to just six reports: Point Pelee 8 May (EAH, PTH, DLo et al.), Rondeau P.P., *Chatham-Kent* 13 May (BAM), *Nanticoke*, *Haldimand* 19-31 May (AW, m.ob.), Point Pelee 23 May (MBI), Rock Point P.P., *Haldimand* 24 May (DRS, JEB), and Long Point (Bluff Bar) 30 May (SAM). An ad. *Franklin's Gull* at Pukaskwa N.P. (Manito Miikana Pen.) 8 May (JSP) made one of few records for *Thunder Bay*, while one at Callander, *Nipissing* 23 May (RDT) was, surprisingly, the only report for the south. An ad. *Black-headed Gull* at Thicksons Bay 6 May (GC) was the only reported sighting. The day after a snow-storm, 27 May, 20 *Arctic Terns* collected at the junction of the Attawapiskat R. and Muketei R., *Kenora* (PSB), about 150 km inland from James Bay; those noted along the Ottawa R. at Ottawa numbered one bird 29 May and up to 4 on subsequent days through 2 Jun (m.ob.). A

Pomarine Jaeger at Etobicoke 25 Mar (GVR et al.) had undoubtedly wintered on L. Ontario.

The wintering *White-winged Dove* at North Bay, *Nipissing* since 15 Jan (PM, m.ob.) was last seen 23 Mar. Record early for Ontario were single *Yellow-billed Cuckoos* at Dundas Valley C.A., *Hamilton* 15 Apr (JKB) and Carden Alvar 23 Apr (SGL, CRS). The only reported sightings for *Chuck-will's-widow* were both 3 May—singing males

at Point Pelee (JG, m.ob.) and Long Point Tip (RR, SAM, DLL). A *Red-headed Woodpecker* at Mississauga, *Peel* 18-21 Apr (WC, m.ob.) was locally very early, and one at Dorion, *Thunder Bay* 20-26 May (SJF et al.) was a rarity for L. Superior. A wintering *Red-bellied Woodpecker* way n. at Wendigo Lake, *Timiskaming* since 17 Nov (MWM, m.ob.) was last seen 16 May.

Single *Olive-sided Flycatchers* 3 May at Point

Pelee (JBa, SMh, RMh et al.) and Two Creeks C.A., *Chatham-Kent* (AEK, JDV) were both locally record early. A *Say's Phoebe* at Carden Alvar 22 Apr (MPA et al.) provided only the 5th spring record for s. Ontario. The only *Western Kingbird* reported in the province was one at Long Point P.P. 17 May (ALB, SAM). Rare and record early for Ontario were single *Scissor-tailed Flycatchers* at Slate River, *Thunder Bay* 5-10 Apr (fide BJM) and Demorestville, *Prince Edward* 14-17 Apr (MBu, m.ob.); another early bird was at Falkland, *Brant* 20 Apr (SAM), and yet another was at Point Pelee 20 May (JBFa, EAFa et al.). An imm. *Fork-tailed Flycatcher* at Long Point Tip 17-18 Apr (FD et al.) established the earliest of 12 Ontario records.

SHRIKES THROUGH WARBLERS

A *Loggerhead Shrike* at Whitby 22 Apr (MKP, AC, ERR) was the only spring migrant reported. A *White-eyed Vireo* at Laurel Creek C.A. 4 May (KHS) was a 2nd record for *Waterloo*. Always very rare, a *Bell's Vireo* at Point Pelee 21 Apr (STP et al.) was the only report. A *Yellow-throated Vireo* at Rondeau P.P. 14 Apr (SRC, BAM) was locally record early, and another early bird was at Point Pelee 16 Apr (BRH, KGDB). *Warbling Vireo* singles at Point Pelee 20 Apr (EWH, BRH, AW et al.) and Opinicon Rd., *Frontenac* 21 Apr (MAC) were locally record early for their areas.

Southerly sightings of *Common Raven* along L. Erie included singles at Walsingham, *Norfolk* 2 Mar (DCT), Port Burwell, *Elgin* 20 Mar (ABA), Long Point Tip 21 Mar (SAM, RWV), and Point Pelee 24-27 Apr (AW et al.), the first spring record there. Both very rare for Algonquin P.P., a *Northern Rough-winged Swallow* was at Smoke L. 10 May (JLR) and a *Bank Swallow* at West Rose L. 22 May (LAF). A *Marsh Wren* at the Tip of Point Pelee 27 May (AW, WGL, KAMn) was locally a record-late spring migrant. The wintering female *Mountain Bluebird* at Prince Edward Pt. since 12 Feb (MRB, KEF) was last reported 4 Mar. The wintering *Varied Thrush* at Limoges, *Prescott and Russell* since 8 Jan was last seen 15 Mar. (m.ob.). Locally record-early *Gray Catbirds* were at Long Point P.P. 15 Apr (RN), Point Pelee 20 Apr (2;

SA Fish Crow continues its advance into the Lower Great Lakes. It was 1978 when the first of its species was found in Ontario, and records have slowly accumulated ever since. But this spring, there was a distinct irruption, with many locations reporting their first Fish Crow ever. The majority of sightings were concentrated in the "Golden Horseshoe" of s. Ontario, but none were reported from the extreme sw. of the province, where the species usually occurs annually. This pattern would indicate that the birds this spring originated from the East Coast, presumably via upstate New York. All reported sightings are presented in Table 2. Some birds remained into summer and undoubtedly nested, but confirmation continues to be elusive.

Table 2. Records of Fish Crow in Ontario, spring 2012.

Date(s)	No.	Site & County/District/Municipality	Observer(s)
mid-Mar–13 Apr	2+	Guelph, Wellington	EKH et al.
14 Mar–31 May+	2	Bronte, Halton	DRD, m.ob.
24 Mar	1	Pitlock Lake, Oxford	JMH
2 Apr	1	Beachville, Oxford (same bird as above?)	JMH
4 Apr	1	Cambridge, Waterloo	JBFr
5 Apr	1	Freelton, Hamilton	PA
18 Apr	1	Stoney Creek, Hamilton	MD
18 Apr	1	w. Hamilton Mountain, Hamilton	ED
25 Apr	2	Oakville, Halton	JW
2 May	1	Orono, Durham	JMR
4-5 May	1	Thicksons Woods, Durham	GC, ML et al.
7 May	1	Turkey Pt., Norfolk	DMB



This Western Tanager at Stokes Bay, Bruce County 19-29 (here 22) April constituted the only Ontario sighting in spring 2012, but more significantly it was the earliest spring migrant ever found in the province. Photograph by Joshua D. Vandermeulen.

JDV, RPC), and Wildwood L. 22 Apr (JMH). A male Smith's Longspur at Thunder Bay 3 Apr (GeAW) was not only a rarity for L. Superior but also a record early arrival for Ontario. The 6000 Snow Buntings at Strathroy 5 Mar (PAR et al.) was a high count, and most were probably spring transients.

Various warblers at Point Pelee that were record early locally included Ovenbird 20 Apr (KJR et al.), Mourning Warbler 2 May (RHH), and Blackburnian Warbler 20 Apr (AW et al.); in the same category was a Yellow Warbler 14 Apr at Laurel Creek C.A., Waterloo (DMG, MBa) and Palm Warbler at Kingston 10 Apr (TN). All of the southern warblers were unusually scarce, especially Worm-eating Warbler, with sightings limited to just 4 at Point Pelee 4-14 May (fide AW), 3 at Pelee I. 22 Apr-14 May (fide KGDB), and singles at Rondeau P.P. 15 May (fide BAM), Long Point P.P. 12-13 May (SAM et al.), Burwell Tract, Norfolk 4 May (DMB), and Thicksons Woods, Durham 9-11 May (MJCB et al.). A Golden-winged Warbler at Radiant Lake, Nipissing 22 May (JHS) was a rare sighting for Algonquin P.P., as were single birds at Thunder Cape, Thunder Bay 12 & 18 May (both AYM, JMW, DLA, PJT). A Hooded Warbler at Ottawa 13 May (PB, AHe) furnished a 4th local record. A Kirtland's Warbler at Stoney Creek, Hamilton 5 May (KW, m.ob.) was the 3rd for H.S.A., and another spring migrant was found at Carden Alvar 26 May (DQB, MJP, SS, MT); 2 territorial singing males were located at the Petawawa Military Reserve, Renfrew, just marginally e. of the boundary of Algonquin P.P. 21 May+ (JHS et al.). A male Audubon's Warbler at Mississauga 25 Apr (JAMW) was the only report of the subspecies. There is no breeding record for Yellow-throated Warbler in Ontario, but 2 at Rondeau P.P. 16 Apr+ probably nested; one was

carrying apparent nest material 21 Apr, and both birds remained well into summer (m.ob.); sightings of spring migrants included singles at Point Pelee 22 Apr (MBR, m.ob.), Kincardine, Bruce 23 Apr (JAT), Pelee I. 25-29 Apr (KGDB et al.) and a different bird there 26-29 Apr (DJW et al.), Wainfleet 2 May (BEF, JMF), Long Point (Courtright Ridge) 13-14 May (FD, AMin), and Point Pelee 21 May (JDV). A female Townsend's Warbler at Wheatley P.P., Chatham-Kent 3 May (AEK) was the 5th record for Point Pelee and 14th for the province. A stunning male warbler caught and banded at Leslie Street Spit 25 Apr (IS, NSH, ACG, PX) was apparently a Black-throated Gray x Townsend's hybrid.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

The wintering male Spotted Towhee at Longlac, Thunder Bay since 12 Nov (FJJ, m.ob.) was last seen 7 May; the bird stayed just under six months, the longest visit of its species in Ontario. A Spotted Towhee at Kortright C.A., York 20 May (LAF) was a record-late spring migrant for Ontario. In Rainy River on 3 May, single Eastern Towhees were found at Rainy River and near Nickel L. at Rainy L. (both TLH). A rarity for the n. was a Field Sparrow at Thunder Cape 24 May (JMW, AYM, DLA, PJT). Lark Sparrows in the n. were singles at Rainy River 5 May (TLH), Dorion 19-20 May (SCB, MGB, m.ob.), Heron Bay, Thunder Bay 27 May (MTB), and Thunder Cape 28 May (PJT, AYM, DLA); in the s., singles were found at Long Point Tip 29 Apr (ALB) and 9 May (SH, RD), just e. of Found L. 3 May (CHC), which was the 5th record for Algonquin P.P., Point Pelee 6 May (MAB et al.), and at Long Point P.P. 9-12 May (JJP et al.). A Savannah Sparrow at Thunder Bay since 17 Feb (JMW et al.) was last seen 10 Apr—probably the first overwintering record for the north. A Grasshopper Sparrow at Lake of Two Rivers, Algonquin P.P. 17-18 Apr (JFP et al.) was a 7th local record and the first there since 1989, while one at Thunder Cape 26 May (AYM, JMW, DLA, PJT) was a rarity for the north. Single Henslow's Sparrows

at Point Pelee 15 Apr (FAB et al.) and 27 May (WGL, AW, KAMn et al.) were the only spring migrants reported, while singles at Southampton, Bruce 5 May (BDW) and Briar Hill Bird Sanctuary, Peterborough 23 May (DAS, TT) were presumably on territory. A Le Conte's Sparrow at Lake of Two Rivers 18 Apr (KPC, JFP, BSg, RS et al.) was both rare and record early for Algonquin P.P., and another at Amherstview 5 May (JBFr) made one of few records for the Kingston Area. Single Nelson's Sparrows at Goertimus I. 26 May (KAMk) and Westover, Hamilton 27 May (CD) were both local rarities for spring and, surprisingly, the only reported sightings in the south. Locally record-early Lincoln's Sparrows were at Point Pelee 12 Apr (RMh, SMh, TRP) and Toronto Is. 14 Apr (ALA). The wintering imm. Harris's Sparrow at Deep River, Renfrew since 27 Nov (JMM et al.) was last seen 22 Mar; the only reported spring migrants in the s. were all at Long Point: Courtright Ridge 2 (SAM) & 8 May (OS, FD, AMin) and at the Tip 3 May (RR, SAM). The wintering imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow at Vanier, Ottawa starting 12 Feb (CCA, SR et al.) was last seen 17 Mar. In the n., a male Oregon Junco was at Dorion 18 Mar (NJM), and another was at Thunder Cape 3 May (JMW, AYM, DLA, PJT). A Pink-sided Junco at Hillman Marsh 18 Mar (BRH) furnished a 2nd record of the *mearnsi* subspecies group for Point Pelee.

Summer Tanagers numbered 10+ at Point Pelee 3-21 May (fide AW), 5 at Long Point 9-24 May (fide SAM, RR), and 3 at Rondeau P.P. 5-18 May (fide BAM); more wayward individuals were at Kemptville, Leeds and Grenville 4 May (fide TFMB), Thicksons Woods 8 May (BEH), Thunder Bay 16 May (JJS), Etobicoke 17 May (LWe), Prince Edward Pt. 19 May (m.ob.), and Longlac 26-30 May (GSS). A Scarlet Tanager at Delta, Leeds and Grenville 18



This Blue Grosbeak provided the second record for Presqu'île Provincial Park, Northumberland County, Ontario, where it was present on 11 May 2012. The previous record of the species here was in 1970. Photograph by David G. Bree.

Apr (North Leeds Birders) was locally record early. A Western Tanager at Stokes Bay 19-29 Apr (ET, m.ob.) was record early for Ontario and the only report of the season. A Northern Cardinal at Moose Factory and 2 at Moosonee were all reported through Mar, indicating they survived the winter at these very northerly locations (*vide* EEH, CJN). Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Elbow Lake, *Frontenac* 14 Apr (MAC, PE), Manotick, *Ottawa* 18 Apr (BAT, KJT), and Point Pelee 20 Apr (BRH, EWH, AW, MJN) were all record early for their respective areas. Blue Grosbeak sightings numbered six and were well scattered across the province: Macdormid, *Thunder Bay* 9-10 May (HMic, AMic), Goderich, *Huron* 10-11 May (DLA et al.), Presqu'île P.P. 11 May (DGB), a 2nd park record (first in 1970), Rondeau P.P. 16 May (TFMB et al.), Point Pelee 20 May (JDV, AW, ACP, CALA), and Radiant Lake 22 May (JHS), a new species for Algonquin P.P. Out-of-season Indigo Buntings at Tobermory 29 Feb-24 Mar (GWA et al.) and Bells Corners, *Ottawa* 30 Mar-10 Apr (RG) were presumed wintering birds, but one at Point Pelee 19 Apr (HTO) was a record-early spring arrival for that area. A male Painted Bunting at Orient Bay, *Thunder Bay* 12-14 May (Laurie McCollum, SDM et al.) made a rare record for the north. Dickcissel sightings numbered only four: Winona, *Hamilton* 18 Apr (KD, m.ob.), which was record early for H.S.A., Pelee I. 3 May (KGDB, BRH, EWH), Long Point (Old Cut) 19 May (SAM), and Point Pelee 24 May (JDV).

Seven Bobolinks at Grimsby 18 Apr (N.P.H.) set a record-early date for H.S.A. Western Meadowlark is rarely reported in the s. as a migrant, but singles were at Point Pelee 2 (STP, AEK, m.ob.) & 9 May (JDV, JMT, RJC et al.). Yellow-headed Blackbird sightings in the s. were limited to a very early male at Point Edward, *Lambton* 30 Mar (JK), one at Long Point Tip 18 Apr (RWW, SAM, MI) and another 13 May (MJT), 2 at Whitefish I., *Algoma* 8 May (KAMk), one at Point Pelee 15 May (JDV, JMT, GCP), and one at Thicksons Woods 29 May (PD); a female at Moosonee 13-14 May (DGR) was one of only a few records for s. James Bay. A male House Finch at the Algonquin P.P. Visitor Centre 23 Mar (RGT, DSh) established the first park record since 2008, while another male at Devlin, *Rainy River* 11 May (MSD) was a 2nd local record. A female White-winged Crossbill at Rock Point P.P., first banded on 4 Apr, was recaptured 10 May showing a very distinct brood patch (JAS); this is indicative of nesting, which is significant so far s. in the province. An impressive 6000 Pine Siskins were at Thunder Cape 20 May (JMW et al.), and the species was confirmed nesting in *Oxford* for the 3rd time, when ads. with fledged young were found 30

May (JMH). Single European Goldfinches were at Dinorwic Lake, *Kenora* 27 Apr (EMR) and Etobicoke 15 May (Kris Ito); the latter bird had a red band on one of its legs. A female European Greenfinch (provenance unknown) was at Point Pelee 19 Apr (BRH, EWH).

Addenda: For spring 2011 (*North American Birds* 65: 427-433), add: 2 White-faced Ibis at Collingwood, *Simcoe* 28 May (Peter Saliba); Purple Sandpiper at Ottawa 26 May (BMD); and Lewis's Woodpecker at Chaput Hughes, *Timiskaming* 20-30 May (Rose McClinchey et al.). For spring 2010 (*North American Birds* 64: 413-419), add: Dickcissel at Sioux Lookout, *Kenora* 11-13 May (Marlie A. Squires, Douglas J. Squires).

Corrigenda: For spring 2011, delete 3 Common Eiders at Thicksons Bay 22 May, Townsend's Solitaire at Point Pelee 3 May, Audubon's Warbler at Algonquin P.P. 23 May; and change the Western Grebe at Leslie Street Spit 13 Mar to Western/Clark's Grebe (all based on decisions of the Ontario B.R.C.). For spring 2010, extend the last date for the Little Blue Heron at Cranberry Marsh to 13 May; change the 3 Glossy Ibis at Long Point Tip 22 Apr to Glossy/White-faced Ibis; and delete the Lark Bunting at Long Point P.P. 20 May (all based on decisions of the Ontario B.R.C.). For summer 2007 (*North American Birds* 61: 578-580), delete Lesser Nighthawk, as no documentation was ever received by O.B.R.C. For spring 2006 (*North American Birds* 60: 369-371), the Snowy Egret in *Lambton* at Courtright 25 May then moved to nearby Wallaceburg 26-29 May; for the Snowy Egret at Peacock Pt., change the occurrence date to 30 May. For spring 2002 (*North American Birds* 56: 301-304), delete the Lark Bunting at North Bay.

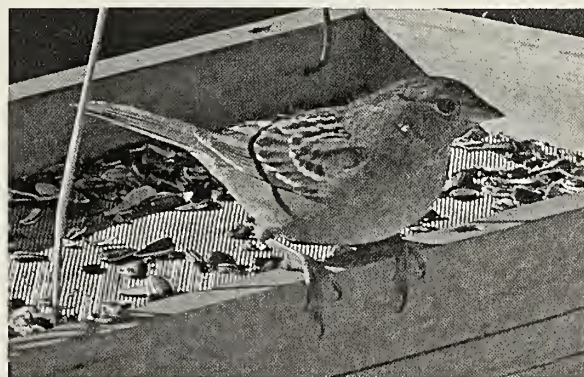
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Henslow's Sparrow is a very elusive spring migrant in Ontario, where most are found at Point Pelee National Park, including this one on 15 April 2012. Photograph by Alan Wormington.



Establishing the fourteenth record of Golden-crowned Sparrow for Ontario, this immature was a regular visitor to a feeder at Vanier, Ottawa Regional Municipality from 12 (here 19) February through 17 March 2012. Photograph by Christopher C. Allaway.

cott, Leo Etherington, Susan J. Fagan, J. Bruce Falls (JBFa), E. Ann Falls (EAFa), Blayne E. Farnan, Jean M. Farnan, Kathy E. Felkar, Mark S. Field, George Finney (GFi), Glenn Forward (GFo), Lev A. Frid, J. Brett Fried (JBFr), Roger E. Frost, David M. Gascoigne, Mark Gawn, Stephen Gawn (SGa), **Graeme C. A. Gibson**, Scott Gibson (SGi), William D. Gilmour, Jackie Goldstein, Peter J. Good, **Clive E. Goodwin**, Robert Green, Amanda C. Guercio, John A. Haig (JAHa), John Harvey, Thora Harvey, Don Hall (DoH), Peter W. Hall, Robert H. Hall-Brooks, David Hallett (DaH), Jeremy L. Hatt, Shelby Hearn, Frederick M. Helleiner, Anna Henderson (AHe), Kurt Hennige, Brian E. Henshaw, Erika K. Hentsch, Deanna Hergert (DHe), Luke Hillyer, G. Tom Hince, Tyler L. Hoar, Brandon R. Holden, Eric W. Holden, **James M. Holdsworth**, George E. Holland, John A. Houston (JAHo), Alec Humann (AHu), Ernie E. Hunter, Elizabeth A. Hunter, Paul T. Hunter, Matt Iles, Jean Iron, **Marcie L. Jacklin**, Frederick J. Jennings, Mark W. Jennings, Sean Jenniskens, Tony Johnson, Marcia Johnson, Andreas H.I. Jonsen, Andrew E. Keaveney, Judy L. Kennedy, Jerry Kuhwald, K. Labonte, John Lamey (JLa), William G. Lamond, Stuart Laughton, David Lavigne (DLa), Christopher A. Law (CALa), Murielle Lecerf, Dayna L. LeClair, Denis Lepage (DL), **Christina A. Lewis** (CALe), Stan G. Long, Jason Lorbetskies (JLo), Debbie Loveridge (DLo), Tim Lucas, Rory MacKay (RM), **Stuart A. Mackenzie**, Ross Mackintosh (RMh), Sandy

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Alan Wormington, R.R. #1, Leamington, Ontario N8H 3V4 (wormington@juno.com)

Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley



Victor W. Fazio, III
Rick Wiltraut

An unseasonably warm winter gave way to an exceptionally warm early spring. As a consequence, we report record or near-record early migrant arrivals for dozens of species across the Region. Many came in the form of singular overshoots well ahead of the body of the initial flight, but many others appeared en masse across a broad front. Waterfowl had

largely departed the Region before the period. Passerines' arrivals were especially influenced by the early warmth, including long-distance Neotropical migrants. Early seasonal records were not limited to migration schedules: songbird breeding schedules were also moved up, in some cases by several weeks (e.g., for Dark-eyed Junco). A record spring flight of Willets through Ohio continues the upward trend of the past two decades. A small colony of Fish Crows was discovered within the suburbia of Cleveland's eastside, representing Ohio's second record after the first in 2011. Common Ravens and Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to consolidate gains, and Black Vultures edge ever farther northward.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Adam James Sabatine, 26, from Bangor, Pennsylvania on 19 April. Adam was an enthusiastic and avid birder and was part of the Golden-winged Warbler working group. He is very much missed.

Abbreviations: B.E.S.P. (Bald Eagle S.P., Centre, PA); Battelle-Darby (Battelle-Darby Creek Metropark, Franklin, OH); B.S.B.O. (Black Swamp B.O.); Bucktoe C.P. (Bucktoe County Preserve, Chester, PA); Byrd Dam (Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason, WV); Conneaut (Conneaut Marsh and Harbor, Ashtabula, OH); Green Bottom (Green Bottom W.M.A., Cabell, WV); Headlands (Headlands Beach S.P. and State Nature Preserve, Lake, OH); Killbuck (Killbuck Marsh W.M.A., Holmes/Wayne, OH); Magee (Magee Marsh W.M.A., Lucas/Ottawa, OH); Ottawa (Ottawa N.W.R., Ottawa/Lucas, OH); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., Erie, PA); P.O.R.C. (Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee); S.R. (Susquehanna R., PA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

The flight of Greater White-fronted Geese through the w. portion of the Region numbered about 40 birds, with the largest group being 25

at Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot, OH 11 Mar (A. Greene). Rare singles within the Allegheny foothills were found at Wexford, Allegheny, PA 18 Mar (A. Clifford) and Buffalo, Guernsey, OH 21 Mar (H. Mason). A weak Snow Goose flight in the w. was offset by a surprising 22 in Cabell, WV 5 Mar (TI) and 100 flying up the Potomac R. in Berkeley, WV 16 Mar (D. Myles). The only other report from West Virginia came from Preston 26 Mar (T. Bronson). In the Allegheny Front in Pennsylvania, up to 138 were tallied in Centre 31 Mar (M. Dreibelbis, A. Weber, A. Sell). The total of 12 Ross's Geese through the w. part of the Region reflected the strong autumn numbers, with 3 each at Cowan L., Clinton, OH 9 Mar (RA) and Williams Res., Allen, OH 18 Mar (RA). The latter were accompanied by 4 Snow Goose x Ross's Goose hybrids (ph. RA). Late for Ohio was a Ross's at Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot 17 Apr (DS); others were noted at Hershey Meadows, Dauphin, PA 16 Mar (T. Becker), at Middle Creek W.M.A., Lancaster, PA 3-4 & 13 Mar (T. Watkins, STh, B. Filemyr), and in Preston, WV 1 Apr (G. Felton). A flock of 27 Brant appeared at Headlands 12 May (ph. TF) for a rare spring Ohio record. The few Cackling Geese w. of the Alleghenies were limited to 5 birds total from Hancock, OH to Erie, PA 3-31 Mar (RSs, MV, m.ob.). Two Mute Swans were in Fayette, WV 30 Apr (David Doubleday), and one was in Randolph, WV 19 May (K. Aldinger). Trumpeter Swans now linger into May in Pennsylvania, where singles were in Clarion 20 May (J. Fedak), in Franklin 17 May (C. Blazo), and at Chambers L., Chester 2-29 May (Amy Davis, George Tallman, m.ob.).

Two interesting duck hybrids were photographed in Ohio. A Gadwall x Northern Shoveler was present in Ottawa 15 Apr (EK), and a Cinnamon Teal x Blue-winged Teal was in Hancock 16-17 Apr (RSs, J. Loughman). An American Black Duck x Mallard hybrid was at Prickett's Fork S.P., Marion, WV 6 May (TBr). In Pennsylvania, a Eurasian Wigeon x American Wigeon hybrid was at Copper Rd. marsh, Lawrence 17 Mar (MV). Up to 6 Eurasian Wigeons in Ohio made an above-average flight: Funk Bottoms W.A., Wayne 29 Feb-2 Mar (KM et al.), nearby Killbuck Marsh, Wayne 10-11 Mar (Bobbie Miller, L. Padegimas et al.), Cowan L., Clinton 9-11 Mar (RA, MB, MGf, m.ob.), Fernald, Hamilton 13-14 Mar (ph. A. Claybon, B. Powell, m.ob.), Evans L., Mahoning 16 Mar (RL), and Guilford L., Mahoning 7 Apr (RL). In Pennsylvania, singles were at Black Swamp, Lawrence, PA 3 Mar (S. Gosser et al.), Mauch Chunk L., Carbon 9-12 Mar (ph. R. Rehrig et al.), and Peck's Pond, Pike 6-13 Apr (D. Rieger et al.). A Green-winged Teal x Eurasian Teal cross was at L. Ontelaunee, Berks 12 Mar (RK).

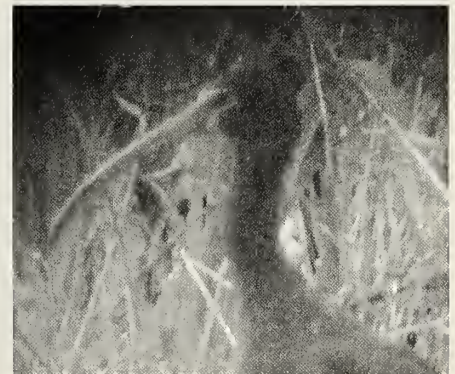
A lingering Canvasback at Winous Pt., Ot-

tawa, OH 20 May (Patrick Johnson) was in suitable nesting habitat. A late Ring-necked Duck tarried at Prickett's Fork S.P., Monongalia, WV 20 May (J. Herron). A waterfowl fallout at B.E.S.P. 31 Mar yielded 2550 Buffleheads (AL, JV). Part of the same fallout, a Surf Scoter and a Black Scoter were in Monongalia, WV 1 Apr (DC); other ducks in this fallout will be listed in the summer report. A late Long-tailed Duck appeared 22-26 May at Headlands (TF et al.); 2 at Tygart L., Taylor, WV 1 Apr (DC) made the only report from that state. An unidentified eider was reported at P.I.S.P. 7 Mar (MW). Red-breasted Mergansers lingered into May along the s. boundary of the Region, with 5 in Grant, WV 11 May (F. Atwood) and 2 in Hamilton, OH 19 May (KW). Locally rare reports of Common Merganser included 4 at Byrd Dam, Mason, WV 3 May (R. Talbert) and one at the Ohio River Islands N.W.R., Wood, WV 30 May (J. Ray). Late for West Virginia, single Ruddy Ducks were in Wetzel 8 May (WJ) and Putnam 5 May (K. Cade).

Red-throated Loons at the w. edge of the flight included singles at Guilford Lake S.P., Columbiana, OH 9 Apr (JHy et al.), Clear Fork Res., Richland, OH 29 Mar (JH), and Edgewater S.P., Cuyahoga, OH 20-22 May (very late; ph. E. Kamposek, JBr et al.). In Pennsylvania, Red-throateds were found in 12 counties 24 Mar-5 May (m.ob.), including an amazing 62 on the S.R. in Lancaster during the fallout 31 Mar (CC). A Pacific Loon was at Eastwood Metropark, Montgomery, OH 23-25 Apr (D. Bradley, S. Egleston, ph. RA, m.ob.); another visited Findlay Res., Hancock 22-28 May (RSs, m.ob.). In Pennsylvania, 11 Red-necked Grebes were found in nine counties 9 Mar-8 May (m.ob.). Two were at Findlay Res., Hancock, OH 17 Mar (RSs) and 2 at Pleasant Hill L., Ashland/Richland 24 Mar (*The Bobolink*). Findlay Res. also hosted an Eared Grebe 11 Apr (LH), and another was at nearby L. LeComte, Hancock 13 Apr (JLh, MRz). Eared Grebes in Pennsylvania included singles at Prince Gallitzin S.P., Cambria 24-26 Apr (M. David), Long Level, York 20 Mar (JB), and P.I.S.P. 31 Mar (MW). The tally of 280 Horned Grebes at B.E.S.P. 24 Mar (N. Barkowi) made the Regional high count.

A modest flight of American White Pelicans involved about 18 birds in Ohio, including one at Hoover Res., Delaware 7-9 Mar (C. Kent, C. Flockerzie), one at Pymatuning L., Ashtabula 5-6 Apr (ph. R. Hirosky), 7 at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., Wyandot 7 Apr (S. Mozu-Gleissbird), 5 at Ottawa 14-15 Apr (JR, EK, G. Leidy) and 11-17 May (R. Allen, T. Batiste, m.ob.), and 3 at Funk Bottoms, Wayne 30 May (BG). An American Bittern near Reedsville, Preston, WV 26 Mar (TBn) was a surprise. Wayward Snowy Egrets included singles to Dawes Arboretum, Licking, OH 25 Apr (MB), Killbuck 1 & 5 May

(*The Bobolink*), Stauffer's Marsh, Jefferson, WV 8 May (C. Del-Colle), and P.I.S.P. 27-30 May (ST), plus 2 at L. Jo-Ann, Washington, PA 6 Apr (D. Weiss) and 4 in Bucks, PA 30 Apr-4 May (m.ob.). Wandering Little Blue Herons appeared in Paulding, OH 4 Apr (DMD), in Miami, OH 12 May (M. Brush), at Kiser L., Champaign, OH 8 May (B. Eckstein), in Jefferson, WV 6 & 23 May (MO, C. Parker, J. Borzik et al.), and at Boyce-Mayview Park, Allegheny, PA 28-29 May (F. Kachmark). A Tricolored Heron briefly appeared at Conneaut 26 May (LK) before moving e. to P.I.S.P. 27-30 May (ST). Cattle Egret passage in the w. involved 5 at Armleder Park, Hamilton, OH 2 May (P. Krusling, JKa et al.) and singles at Malabar Farm, Richland, OH 17 Apr (G. Cowell) and Green Bottom 18 May (TI). Notable farther e. was a Cattle Egret in Erie, PA 28 May (RK), with 3 in Bucks, PA 2-15 May (*fide* AM). Very rare in the s. highlands, one was at Little Beaver S.P., Raleigh, WV 13 May (N. Wade Snyder). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron had returned to the Bexley, Franklin, OH breeding site by 23 Mar (R. Thorn). Up to 3 were found at Killbuck 28-30 Apr (BG, A. Troyer), with one remaining through 19 May (*The Bobolink*). A failed nesting attempt took place here in 2006 (*fide* SS). A flock of 3 imm. White Ibis was noted over State College, Centre, PA 4 May (Nancy Ellen Kiernan); the imm. that wintered at Kaercher Creek Park, Berks, PA was last reported 19 Mar (CH). A Glossy Ibis put down at Thomas Wetlands, Paulding 22-27 Apr (J. Simonis, DMD, JLh) for a very rare w. cen. Ohio report. In Pennsylvania, Glossy Ibis included 6 at Penn Warner Tract, Bucks 31 Mar (DF) and 3 in Chester 19 May (LL et al.). Two dark ibis at Killbuck 16 Apr (SHn) may have been among the 3 White-faced Ibis there 2-8 May (D. Kline, K. Calhoon, D. Plant, m.ob.). Subsequently, 3 appeared at Metzger Marsh 16 May (SD, R. Nirshl) within the Western Basin. These were joined by 4 more *Plegadis*, and these 7 ventured to neighboring Ottawa



This White-faced Ibis at Old Crow wetland, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania 3 May 2012 represented only the second verified state record. Photograph by David Kyler.

N.W.R., producing numerous reports of various species compositions, including a putative hybrid. Careful examination of a suite of photographs determined the presence of 4 White-faced Ibis and 3 Glossy Ibis through 22 May (ph. LK, ph. IS, ph. J. Fox, ph. K. Seymour, ph. D. Henise, m.ob.). A **White-faced Ibis** was at Old Crow wetland, *Huntingdon*, PA 3 May (ph. D. & T. Kyler), a 2nd state record.

L. Erie shoreline visitation by Black Vultures continues, led by 5 at Huntington Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, OH 23 Mar (JBr), followed by singles in the Oak Openings, *Lucas*, OH 19 May (S. Corbo) and at Conneaut 16 Apr (BG). A Mississippi Kite was well described near Cabins, *Grant*, WV 13 May (F. Atwood). In Pennsylvania, singles were in Susquehanna Twp., *Dauphin* 26 Mar (E. Chubb), at Wildwood Park, *Dauphin* 13 Apr (M. Faubel), at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, *Berks/Schuylkill* 16 Apr (M. Wlasniewski et al.), near Crooked Creek S.P., *Armstrong* 3 May (M. Higbee et al.), at B.C.P. 19 May (LL et al.), at L. Ontelaunee, *Berks* 24 May (RK), and at P.I.S.P. 24 May (ph. JM); 2 were at Speedwell L., *Lancaster* 22 Apr (BC) and 2 at B.C.P. 23 May (HM et al.). A Swallow-tailed Kite was in Marshall Twp., *Allegheny* 30 Apr (G. Smith). A Broad-winged Hawk at Three Rivers Avian Center, *Summers*, WV 13-14 Mar (W. Perrone) was very early for the Region. A dark-morph Western Red-tailed Hawk was at Middle Creek W.M.A. 2 Mar (JB). A Swainson's Hawk at Tussey Mt. hawkwatch, *Huntingdon/Centre*, PA 14 Apr (N. Bolgiano, C. Widmann) made a 3rd record for that locale. The tally of 212 Golden Eagles at Tussey Mt. hawkwatch was the 2nd highest season total there (A. Sell, N. Bolgiano). A Golden Eagle in *Richland*, OH 14 Mar (JH) represented a rare county record, and a late migrant was detected 11 May at Painesville Township Park, *Lake*, OH (JP).

Two Virginia Rails at Woods Edge Park, *Lancaster*, PA 7 Mar (JB et al.) may have wintered there. Two Black Rails were noted in the Re-

gion: one at Metzger Marsh W.M.A., *Lucas*, OH 5-11 May (D. Bell, C. Wood, KM, m.ob.), the other in *Hampshire*, WV 29 May+ (S. Droege, m.ob.). Rarely observed in se. Ohio, a Sandhill Crane was detected overhead in Hopewell Twp., *Muskingum* 5 Mar (B. Evans).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH OWLS

Single Piping Plovers were on L. Erie at Headlands 22-25 Apr (IK, C. Chiapone) and Conneaut 28 Apr (RL). Both sported color bands, with the Headlands bird having been banded at Sleeping Bear Dunes N.P., MI in 2010 (fide S. Sargent). Ellis Wetlands, *Butler*, OH hosted a Black-necked Stilt 17-19 Apr (M. Busam, D. Brinkman, J. Marvin, E. Leon). It was preceded by a record early arrival of a pair at Kiser L., *Champaign*, OH 1-6 Apr (DS et al.), a first county record. In Pennsylvania, a stilt was at Conewago Wetlands, *Lancaster* 22 May (M. Epler, C. Chalfant). The narrow spring migration window of American Avocet was marked by a flock of 33 at Sandy Ridge, *Lorain*, OH 13 Apr (JT et al.) and 7 at Maumee Bay S.P., *Lucas*, OH 15 Apr (EK, KK). Exceptionally early were 3 at Grand L., *Auglaize*, OH 6 Apr (J. Bowers). A Solitary Sandpiper at Funk Bottoms W.A., *Wayne* 14 Mar (AM, DW) establishes a new early arrival date for Ohio. A seasonal record 230+ Willets—led by an astonishing 124 at Hoover Res., *Delaware* 28 Apr (PHo, m.ob.) and 45 at Clark L., *Clark* 28 Apr (DSr)—graced a dozen sites across Ohio during the 27 Apr–3 May passage. The cen. highlands shared in the bounty, with 9 at Duck Hollow, *Allegheny*, PA 4 May (T. Moeller, ph. G. Malosh) and a single bird at Bowden Fish Hatchery, *Randolph*, WV 27 Apr (R. Bodkins). In addition to a lone Marbled Godwit at Ottawa N.W.R., *Ottawa*, OH 13 May (S. Tackett et al.), a flock of 9 set down at Killbuck 1 May (*The Bobolink*). The highlight of the shorebird watch at Bucktoe C.P. was a total of 169 **Whimbrels**, including 100 on 18 May (LL) and 69 on 23 May (HM, CC, B. Novak). Red Knots were almost absent, with but 3 birds noted in Ohio: one at Sandy Ridge, *Lorain* 28 Apr (RKK) and 2 at Magee 18 May (R. Duffy).

Few shorebirds appeared ahead of schedule, but Least Sandpipers arrived in Ohio 11 Mar in *Butler* (2; JC), 25 Mar in *Ottawa* (EK), and 31 Mar in *Lucas* (IK). A record-early Semipalmated Sandpiper was reported from Crane Cr., *Lucas*, OH 14 Apr (Gly). Two Baird's Sandpipers were studied at Funk Bot-



Rare in Pennsylvania in spring, this Long-billed Dowitcher at Bald Knob, Allegheny County 1 May 2012 represented one of only a handful of spring records for the state. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

toms W.A., *Wayne*, OH 29 May (R. Hershberger), an exceptional spring report. Hard to come by in West Virginia, single White-rumped Sandpipers were in *Jefferson* 15 May (MO) and at Gallipolis Ferry, *Mason* 27 May (G. Rankin). One to 2 Stilt Sandpipers were at Killbuck 30 Apr–6 May (BG, KM, JH, m.ob.), and one was in *Hamilton*, OH 15 May (B. Hull). Rare in West Virginia, one was at Byrd Dam, *Mason* 18 May (TI). Two **Ruffs**, both females, drew much attention at Killbuck, the first 30 Apr–5 May, the other 12 May (BG, MB, ES, m.ob.); another was at Somerset L., *Somerset*, PA 16 Apr (ph. ML). The status of spring Long-billed Dowitchers remains problematic in the Region. After an uptick in reports in 2011 (few with details), a strong flight (with good corroboration) was evident in 2012. Two were at Ottawa N.W.R., *Ottawa*, OH 22-25 Mar (DF, EK, m.ob.), with one remaining 3 Apr (KK). Singles appeared at Killbuck 29 Mar (SHn, S. Snyder), at Blanchard Crossing, *Hancock*, OH 8 Apr (RSs), at Funk Bottoms W.M.A., *Wayne*, OH 10-14 Apr (AM, DW, KM), at Riverside Park, *Hamilton*, OH 27-28 Apr (MGf, KW), and again at Killbuck 30 Apr–3 May (ES, BG, TBn, m.ob.). Farther e., one was found at Imperial grasslands, *Allegheny*, PA 1 May (G. Malosh), for a 2nd county record. A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Pymatuning L., *Crawford*, PA 21 May (ph. A. Wilson) made only the 2nd spring record for the state. Away from the Western Basin, single Wilson's Phalaropes stopped by Sandy Ridge, *Lorain*, OH 12 May (S. Moscovitz), *Lorain Harbor*, *Lorain*, OH 25 May (S. Isacco), and *Lebanon*, PA 30 May (P. Fisher). Single Red-necked Phalaropes were in *Darke*, OH 24 May (R. Schieltz), in *Franklin*, OH 15-16 May (JPs, TBn, m.ob.), and at Byrd Dam, *Mason*, WV 23 May (MG). Red-necked Phalaropes in Pennsylvania included one at Gotwals Pond, *Berks* 21 May (RK), 2 at Beltzville Lake S.P., *Carbon* 21 May (R. Rehrig, RW et al.), 2 at Bath, *Northampton*



This Arctic Tern discovered by Rick Wiltraut at Beltzville Lake, Carbon County, Pennsylvania 21 May 2012 was at the same location and under similar conditions (rainy with easterly winds) where Wiltraut documented the state's first on 16 May 1989. Photograph by Rob Bergstresser.

21 May (ph. J. Kaboly), 2 at B.E.S.P. 22 May (N. Thomas, D. Weber), and one in *Lebanon* 26 May (T. Becker).

Lake Erie shore sites in *Lorain* 4-5 Apr (J. Auburn, C. Harner, DGo) and *Ashtabula* 4 Apr (JP) and 26 May (LK) hosted single Laughing Gulls; inland birds made it to *Delaware* 30 Apr (RA), *Richland* 30 Apr (JH), and *Wayne* 5 May (*The Bobolink*). In w. Pennsylvania, single Laughing Gulls were at Pymatuning L., *Crawford* 22 May (MV) and P.I.S.P. 28 May (S. Collins). A flock of 5 Franklin's Gulls were at the very w. edge of the Region at St. Mary's State Fish Hatchery, *Auglaize*, OH 26 Apr (J. Reid); one ventured e. to Battelle-Darby 15-16 May (JPs, TBn). In Pennsylvania, Little Gulls were in Washington Boro, *Lancaster* 12 Mar (CC), at Wrightsville, *York* 8 Apr (T. Frantz), along the S.R. in *Lancaster* 15 Apr (M. Lombard), at Somerset L., *Somerset* 25 Apr (ML), and at P.I.S.P. 29 Mar and 17 Apr (JM). In addition, 2 at B.E.S.P. 14-18 Apr (A. Lamoreaux, D. Weber) made a first for *Centre*. At *Ashtabula*, *Ashtabula*, Ohio's wintering **Black-tailed Gull** was last reported 4 Mar (JP). A California Gull at Hoover Res., *Delaware*, OH 29-30 Apr (B. Warner, AH, Joe Hazelbaker, m.ob.) was exceptional away from L. Erie. The ad. at Lorain Harbor, *Lorain*, OH was last seen 3 Mar (JP). The inland Ohio passage of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in spring, a novelty just a few years ago, is now well established, with 7 birds reported 6 Mar-1 May (JH, AH, m.ob.). Late for the Western Basin, one was at Port Clinton, *Ottawa*, OH 3 May (C. McClaugherty). Spring reports of Glaucous Gull from Ohio's interior are becoming annual, but singles at Hoover Res., *Delaware* 8 May (C. Bombaci, L. Kahle) and Indian L., *Logan* 27 Apr (T. Shiveley) were decidedly late. A first-cycle Great Black-backed Gull also lingered inland at Grand L., *Auglaize*, OH 21 Apr (J. Russell). In Pennsylvania, a Great Black-backed Gull at Yellow Creek S.P. 15 May (M. Higbee et al.) was a first for *Indiana*. An **Arctic Tern** discovered at Beltzville L., *Carbon*, PA 21 May was at the same location and under similar conditions (rainy with easterly winds) where the observer found and photographed the first documented record for the state 16 May 1989 (ph. RW, ph. Rob Bergstresser). Two Arctic Terns were well described at Elk S.P., *Elk*, PA 22 May (A. Guarante). A Least Tern was at Maumee Bay S.P., *Lucas*, OH 16-24 May (ph. SD, EK, DF, JC, m.ob.). Ohio's 3rd **Royal Tern** visited St. Mary's State Fish Hatchery, *Auglaize* 29 Apr-2 May (ph. Russell Reynolds, ph. VF, MB, J. Haw).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

The Eurasian Collared-Dove is now resident in three Ohio counties: *Williams*, *Mercer*, and *Wayne*. One at Batelle-Darby Creek Me-

tropark, *Franklin*, OH 11 May (PHo) was at a new location. The recently discovered colony in Shartlesville, *Berks*, PA numbered about 6 birds (MW). White-winged Dove has almost become an annual visitor to Ohio. One was at a suburban Mayfield Heights, *Cuyahoga*, OH feeder 15-21 Apr (*fide* N. Barber, ph. VF, m.ob.). Another yard bird appeared in Sandusky, *Erie* 3 May (ph. D. Clark). A Short-eared Owl on reclamation land in *Harrison*, OH 30 May (SP) was in suitable breeding habitat. A Chuck-wills-widow was n. to Wills Creek, PA 19 May (ES); another returned to Ft. Indian-town Gap, *Lebanon*, PA (*fide* RW), and another was heard in Springfield Twp., *Bucks*, PA 25 May (M. Chiltren, *fide* D. Allison). An Eastern Whip-poor-will returned to *Putnam*, WV 1 Apr (CE). A Chimney Swift flew over a w. Cincinnati suburb 5 Mar (JKa), three weeks before any other, for a record-early date for the state. The wintering imm. female **Rufous Hummingbird** that wintered at Paoli, *Chester*, PA was last seen 9 Mar (BG; b. 4 Mar by S. Lockerman).

An early Olive-sided Flycatcher reached Cincinnati 27 Apr (JRg). A **Say's Phoebe** at Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, *Lake* 14-17 Apr (JT, ph. TF; C. Caldwell, IK, m.ob.) marked a first spring record for Ohio. The Say's Phoebe that wintered in *Bucks*, PA was last reported 24 Apr (R. & V. Smith). A calling Alder Flycatcher in *Franklin*, OH 2 May (PHo) was the state's earliest ever; other early singles were noted 5 May in *Lucas* (B.S.B.O., m.ob.), 6 May at Nimisila Res., *Summit* (G. Bennett), a record-early arrival in the Cleveland region, and 8 May in *Holmes* (BG). A locally rare Loggerhead Shrike was seen at Van Sant Airport, *Bucks*, PA 27 May (ph. M. Gallagher). In Pennsylvania, Northern Shrikes were recorded in eight counties 1-20 Mar; one at Crooked Creek S.P., *Indiana* 16 Apr (Marge Van Tassel) was late.

Are Bell's Vireo on the increase in sw. Ohio? Ten were reported from six breeding locales (DO, DSr, IS, BWu, KW, N. Cade, m.ob.). An outlier was n. to *Wood*, OH 20 May (MRz, JR). A Warbling Vireo in *Montgomery*, OH 9 Apr (P. Dubuc) was among the earliest arrivals for that state, while one in *Jefferson*, WV 15 Apr (MO) was exceptional for the Panhandle. A Blue-headed Vireo in *Pendleton*, WV 17 Mar (MO) was also exceptionally early for the Panhandle. A Yellow-throated Vireo in s. *Kanawha*, WV 30 Mar (CE) made a record-early arrival for the state.

Once remarkable before Apr, Barn Swallows swept across the Region in late Mar. The 25+ birds reported from nine Ohio counties, and the 13 at Green Bottom 31 Mar (MG), provide shocking comparison with the norm of one or 2 early arrivals each year. An early Barn Swallow reached L. Erie at Elyria, *Lorain* 8 Mar (D. Sabine); another at Nockamixon S.P.,

PA 25 Mar established a new early arrival by one day (DF); and one was at Exton, *Chester* the same day (A. Davis). Cliff Swallows appeared 31 Mar in *Hamilton* (one; MGF) and at Lake White S.P., *Pike* (2; D. Slager). House Wrens typically do not arrive at breeding sites within Ohio until mid-Apr, with a few exceptions in the first week of Apr. Reports in Mar have been met with considerable skepticism, yet this season no fewer than 5 birds were well described across four counties: 3 appeared in *Hamilton* 19-24 Mar (J. Eastlake, BWu, Rene & Bill McGill), including singing birds at nest boxes; one was at Aullwood Audubon Center, *Montgomery* 20 Mar+ (T. Hissong); and one was at Knox Woods State Nature Preserve, *Knox* 20 Mar (D. McCament). Equally astonishing, a Sedge Wren was described from Spring Valley W.A., *Warren*, OH 27 Mar (JRg); 3 at Green Bottom 18 May (TI) made a good find for West Virginia. A Marsh Wren at Spring Valley W.A., *Warren*, OH 15 Mar (S. Corbo, L. Houser) was the first in a wave of singles that reached L. Erie 16 Mar in both *Ottawa* (Z. DeBruine) and *Lucas* (S. Tackett). Two each were in *Franklin* 17 Mar (BSs) and at Hillman S.P., *Washington*, PA 15 Mar (J. Fletcher)—all preceded by one at Green Bottom 11 Mar (Margaret Straley). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are occasional in late Mar in s. Ohio. This season, singles were found across four n. Ohio counties in *Allen* 20 Mar (LH), in *Seneca* 17 Mar (TB), on the shore of L. Erie in

SA At least 7 **Fish Crows** were documented in two locations in Shaker Heights, *Cuyahoga*, OH, repeating a pattern of expansion of the species in the Region whereby disjunct and often far-flung colonies pop up with little warning ("leap-frog" colonization). Two birds were initially reported in adjacent Cleveland Heights 21 Mar (Katrina Heinzen). Confirmation came during the latter half of Apr, when observers located a nest under construction 23 Apr (ph. A. Jones, M. Leighty) with 4 birds in attendance. The site was still active into Jun (A. Jones). Another bird was verified several km to the e. 27 Apr (H. Clebsch). Several single-observer sight records surfaced elsewhere in the state and may prove valid. These include a convincing description from Whitehouse, *Lucas* 13 May (p.a., M. Anderson). In Pennsylvania, two pairs discovered nesting in May in the urban Squirrel Hill section of Pittsburgh (*fide* Mike Fialkovich) are part of a similar disjunct colony first established in 2004.

SA Common Raven was much in the news this spring, across the Region, as its expansion continues. In Bucks, PA, the Nockamixon Twp. quarry nest site known since 2008 had 4 fledglings out of the nest 1 May (DF). On 31 May, a family of 6 including begging young was seen flying at the Nockamixon cliffs, where they are presumed to have nested (AM, JM). In Chester, PA, a pair of ravens at Darlington Tract 22-29 Apr (AG) made the 3rd sighting of this species at this location in the past two years and the first pair reported. The first active nests in Berks, PA were reported this spring. One was conspicuously placed on a communication tower off Rte. 501 near the Appalachian Trail on the Kittatinny Ridge, first reported with photographs 10 Apr (MP). The other, in a long abandoned mine in e. Berks, contained 3 or 4 chicks when discovered 15 Apr (*vide* PS). There were multiple reports of ravens elsewhere in the county, including a pair performing courtship over Neversink Mt., Reading 14 Mar (BU). A first record for B.C.P., a flyover was an unexpected surprise during a birdwalk 12 Mar (LL, HD et al.).

In Ohio, a Common Raven was near Cadiz, Harrison 8 Mar (SP). The westernmost in the Region, the resident bird in Knox, OH was last reported 5 May (JFY), when it was apparently joined by another. Two ravens at Huntington, Cabell, WV 28 Apr (TI) were also westerly, and others along the Ohio R. included 2 near Parkersburg, Wood, WV 17 May (D. Blue) and one at New Martinsville, Wetzel, WV 22 May (WJ). Additional outliers late in the season were in Crawford, PA 22 May (R. Nugent) and at Presque Isle, Erie 20 May (W. Wehtje). Fitting this late May pattern of dispersal (?) were unverified yet plausible reports of singles from Hocking, OH 27 May (D. Horn) and Coshocton, OH 19 May (A. Sewell). Two ravens at Winfield Bridge, Putnam, WV 27-28 Mar (C. Ellis) were well away from the highlands.

Lucas 25-27 Mar (EK, K. Baker), and on Kelleys I., Erie 16 Mar (TB). In the cen. highlands, one was in Hardy, WV 31 Mar (D. Carr). We have come to expect a half-dozen or so Ruby-crowned Kinglets to reach the n. portion of the Region in Mar. This season, 15 were recorded in Mar within the L. Erie watershed, including 4 at Holden Arboretum, Lake, OH 25 Mar (TF). In the cen. highlands, 4 were n. to Sinnema-honing S.P., Cameron, PA 25 Mar (M. Johnson). Possibly because more are overwintering, Gray Catbirds are now regularly reported in Mar, well before migrants are expected. Singles were in Wood, PA 19 Mar (JR), Summit, OH 18 Mar (A. Osborn), Crawford, PA 28 Mar (S. Collins), Allegheny, PA 28 Mar (R. Nugent), and Morgan, WV 31 Mar (J. Adam).

Louisiana Waterthrushes were common in Ohio by late Mar, with 10 at Shawnee S.F., Scioto 31 Mar (BSs) and 5 in Mohican S.F., Ashland



This adult Harris's Sparrow tarried at Howard, Pennsylvania from 17 April through 2 May (here) 2012, providing a second record for Centre County. Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.

26 Mar (GC). Allegheny arrivals in Calhoun, WV 13 Mar (T. Fox) and Wayne, WV 22 Mar (MG) were noteworthy, while one in Leet Twp., Allegheny 20 Mar (B. Smith) made the earliest arrival in w. Pennsylvania (*vide* B. Mulvihill). Ohio singles were n. to Camp Berry, Hancock 25 Mar (RSs) and Kirtland, Lake 20 Mar (JP); one reached the Darlington Tract, Delaware, PA 18 Mar (DE). Black-and-white Warblers were at Shawnee S.F., Scioto, OH by 31 Mar (BSs); one was early at Yankauer Nature Preserve, Berkeley, WV 6 Mar (P. Blair). An Orange-crowned Warbler wintering at Woods Edge Park, Lancaster, PA was last reported 22 Mar (BC), and one wintering at West Chester, Chester, PA was last seen 19 Apr (*vide* HM). The easternmost Connecticut Warblers were singles at Kinzua Bridge S.P., McKean, PA 12 May (J. Fedak) and at Huntington, Cabell, WV 16 May (TI). An early arrival was documented 28 Apr in Franklin, OH (ph. S. Rose). A Hooded Warbler at Scioto Trail S.P., Ross 25 Mar (B. Whan, A. Sewell et al.) was a record-early spring arrival for Ohio. A Cape May Warbler was seen attending a feeder in Manheim, Lancaster, PA 4-8 Apr (BC). The Townsend's Warbler discovered during the winter in Cumberland, PA was last observed 8 Mar (A. Green). Three Kirtland's Warblers made appearances within the Western Basin marshes in Lucas, OH. An ad. male was seen in one portion of Magee Marsh 9 May (ph. A. Lamoreaux, EK, m.ob.), and another was seen singing elsewhere in the park (D. Gochfeld). An ad. female was on the adjacent Ottawa N.W.R. portion of the marshes 12 May (ph. LK, EK, SD, m.ob.). A Kirtland's Warbler at Erie,

Erie 22 May (MW, ph. JM et al.) represented the 4th documented record for w. Pennsylvania. An Audubon's Warbler was documented at Cincinnati 12 May (ph. L. Brumbaugh). A Palm Warbler reached L. Erie at Shaker L., Cuyahoga, OH 27 Mar (L. Gooch), the earliest arrival within the Cleveland Region. Pine Warblers were n. to Lucas, OH 17 Mar (2; EK), Geauga, OH 16 Mar (I. Schmidt), and Erie, PA 25 Mar (J. R. Hill, III). The Mar arrival of Yellow-throated Warbler n. of the Ohio R. counties is exceptional. This season, it was ordinary, with 7 in cen. Ohio including 3 at Woodside Green Park, Franklin 29 Mar (L. Rowse) and 2 at Old Reid Park, Clark 30 Mar (DO), plus one n. to the L. Erie basin in Lake 28 Mar (JP). One reached the Rocky River corridor 24 Mar (E. McQuaid) for the Cleveland Region's earliest spring record. A southerly bird at Firefly Hollow, Athens/Washington, OH 21 Mar (L. Hermendorfer) provided a new early arrival for the state. Five were n. to Pittsburg area, including 3 in Washington 30-31 Mar (J. Boback, STh) and 2 in Allegheny 30 Mar (STh).

A Green-tailed Towhee at North Perry, Lake 2 May (ph. JP et al.) was Ohio's 5th. A wayward Lark Sparrow touched down on the Cleveland Lakefront 21 Apr (D. Giancola). The Green-tailed Towhee that wintered at Blue Marsh L., Berks, PA was last reported 2 Apr (JR et al.). An above-average flight of Clay-colored Sparrows through Ohio saw 11 migrants reported, 8 within the Western Basin. Notable were 3 at Wendy Park, Cuyahoga 1 May (JBr, DGo, m.ob.). One sang at Wolf Creek Environmental Center, Medina, OH 24 Apr+ (C. Decker; D. Bertsch, Dwight & Ann Chasar, K. Tanquist, m.ob.); another at Old Crow wetland, Huntingdon, PA 1-3 May was a first county record (David & Trudy Kyler, m.ob.). Always rare in spring, a Nelson's Sparrow was at Funk Bottoms W.A., Wayne, OH 23 Mar (R. Steiner), with 2 there 25 Mar (RL, JHy). These dates are seven weeks before the few spring migrants are expected, so these birds probably wintered in this area. One of the earliest reports for Ohio, a Henslow's Sparrow was at Slate Run Metropark, Pickaway, OH 24 Mar (A. Krava); the same is true of a Grasshopper Sparrow noted 18 Mar in Holmes (Raymond L. Miller). An ad. Harris's Sparrow at Howard, Centre, PA 17-28 Apr (B. Snyder) furnished a 2nd county record, and the wintering Harris's Sparrow near Kempton, Berks, PA was last reported 2 Apr (JR). An imm. Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was at Woods Edge Park, Lancaster, PA 7 Mar (JB). Virtually unknown in Mar in the Region, single Lincoln's Sparrows were in Franklin, OH 24 Mar (JPs), in Licking, OH 20 Mar (MB), and at Huntington, Cabell, WV 20 Mar (TI). A wintering Lincoln's Sparrow at Exton, Chester, PA was last seen 28 Apr (*vide* HM). An ad. Dark-eyed Junco was

observed feeding a recent fledgling 28 Apr in Munson Twp., *Geauga*, OH (B. Pardington). An Oregon Junco was at P.I.S.P. 25 Mar (M. Franz).

Single Dickcissels were seen at Bunker Hill, *Holmes*, OH 2 Mar (KM) and in *Northampton*, PA 30 Mar (Rich & Barbara Rehrig). Three Dickcissels were singing at Needmore, *Fulton*, PA 18 May (D. Snell); one singing at Bath, *Northampton*, PA 24 Mar (ph. D. Welch) was unusual there. An Indigo Bunting present at a feeder in Columbia, *Lancaster*, PA since Feb was seen through 7 Apr (ph. A. Evans). A male Bobolink closely studied 2 Apr in w. *Washington*, OH (K. Carsen) was a very early migrant. A Western Meadowlark was discovered 31 Mar e. of Dalton, *Wayne*, OH and last seen 8 Apr (S. Hackett, DS, Jlh, m.ob.). In Ohio, Yellow-headed Blackbirds were restricted to the L. Erie marshes of the Western Basin beginning 31 Mar (DGo, IK). In Pennsylvania, singles were at Presque Isle hawkwatch 20 Mar (JM, R. States) and Clearfield 23-24 Apr (Steve & Mary Ann Belin). The male Bullock's Oriole in Douglass Twp., *Montgomery*, PA was last noted 7 Apr (M. Ache); the female Bullock's at Neelytown,

Huntingdon, PA remained until 7 Mar (Jim & Lorraine Hamilton). A male Lesser Goldfinch at Greenlick, *Franklin*, PA 9-10 Apr (ph. D. Gearhart) represented a first state record.

Corrigenda: In the winter 2011-2012 report, the Thayer's Gull captioned 1 Jan 2012 should be corrected to read 3 Mar 2012.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in bold): Rick Asamoto (RA), Thomas Bartlett (TB), Tom Bain (TBn), Justin Bosler (JB), Margaret Bowman (MB), Jenny Brumfield (JBr), Nancy Butkovich, Bruce Carl (BC), Jason Cade (JC), Chuck Chalfant (CC), Derek Courtney (DC), Gary Cowell (GC), Doug & Micki Dunakin (DMD), Sherrie Duris (SD), **David Eberly** (DE), Cynthia Ellis (CE), Victor Fazio (VF), Tom Frankel (TF), Darlene Friedman (DF), Dan Gesauldo (DGo), Mark Gilsdorf (MGf), Bruce Glick (BG), Mike Griffith (MG), **Greg Grove** (GG), Scott Hannan (SHn), Jeff Harvey (JHy), John Herman (JH), **Paul Hess** (PH), Linda Houshower (LH), Alex Hughes (AH), Paul Hurtado (Pho), Tom Igou (TI), Wilma Jarrell

(WJ), Joe Kappa (JKa), Rich and Karen Kasouff (RKK), Laura Keene (LK), **Rudy Keller** (RK), Ethan Kistler (EK), Irene Krise (IK), Alex Lamoreaux (AL), Robert Lane (RL), Mike Lanzone (ML), Jay Lehman (JLh), Larry Lewis (LL), **Jerry McWilliams** (JM), **Holly Merker** (HM), Scott Meyers (SM), Aaron E. Miller (AM), Kent Miller (KM), **August Mirabella** (AM), Matt Orsie (MO), Doug Overacker (DO), Scott Pendleton (SP), John Pogacnik (JP), Jeff Pontius (JPs), J. W. Rettig (JRg), Jeremy Ross (JR), Mark Rozmarynowycz (MRz), Robert Sams (RSs), Dan Sanders (DS), Ed Schlabach (ES), Bob Schutsky (BS), Irina Shulgina (IS), Su Snyder (SS), Brad Sparks (BSs), Jerry Talkington (JT), Shannon Thompson (ST), Mark Vass (MV), Joe Verica (JV), David Weaver (DW), Mike Weible (MW), Kirk Westendorf (KW), Rick Wiltraut (RW), Brian Wulker (BWu). ☺

Victor W. Fazio, III, 18722 Newell Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122, (bcvireo@sbcglobal.net)
Rick Wiltraut, Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center, 835 Jacobsburg Road, Wind Gap, Pennsylvania 18091, (rwiltraut@pa.gov)



James D. Hengeveld
Keith A. McMullen
Geoffrey A. Williamson

Temperatures in spring 2012 were the warmest on record across the Region, some 4-4.5°C warmer than average, with March temperatures soaring 8° and 13.8° above the norm in Indiana and Illinois, respectively. Precipitation levels, on the other hand, were well below average, a harbinger of one of the driest summers on record. The high temperatures especially in March and April appeared to be the impetus for an early exodus of gulls and

other winter residents and the stimulus for early arrivals by many passerine migrants. The vegetational phenology, including leafing out of deciduous trees, was three to four weeks ahead of schedule throughout the Region. Several long-time observers remarked on very poor numbers of migrants. Notable records included Eurasian Wigeon, Brown Pelican, Neotropic Cormorant, Anhinga, Tricolored Heron, Swallow-tailed Kite, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff, an unidentified *Elaenia*, Say's Phoebe, and Western Tanager.

Abbreviations: Cane Ridge (Cane Ridge W.M.A., Gibson, IN); Carlyle (Carlyle L., Clinton, Bond and Fayette, IL); Chau (Chautauqua N.W.R., Mason, IL); Dunes (Dunes S.P., Porter, IN); Eagle Slough (Eagle Slough N.A., Evansville, IN); Emiquon (Emiquon N.W.R., Fulton, IL); FWA. (Fish and Wildlife Area); Goose Pond (Goose Pond FWA., Greene, IN); Green Tower (in Dunes); Mermet (Mermet L., Massac, IL); Montrose (Montrose Pt., Chicago); Patoka R. (Patoka River N.W.R., Gibson, IN); Prairie Ridge (Prairie Ridge State N.A., Jasper, IL).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GREBES

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was seen by 2 observers at Mermet 3 May (ph. JSc, ph. GK). A record flight of Snow Geese was logged in Indiana, and a fine flight of Ross's Geese was ex-

emplified by 32 at Clinton L., *DeWitt*, IL 9 Mar (MEF) and 34 at Chinook Mine, Vigo, IN 11 Mar (JS et al.). Two Trumpeter Swans near Lincoln, *Logan*, IL 9 May (JWW) were noteworthy. The 193 Tundra Swans in s. *LaPorte* 2 Mar (J&EH) represented Indiana's 2nd highest count, while 2 at L. Renwick, Will, IL 1 May (ph. ASA) were surprisingly late. Dabbling ducks appeared in exceptional numbers, but diving duck numbers were generally well below normal. The 2000+ Gadwalls at Patoka R. 25 Mar (LWS, KM) were the most for a spring period in Indiana. Single male Eurasian Wigeons were at Banner Marsh, *Peoria*, IL 13 Mar (PJR) and at L. Sangchris, *Sangamon*, IL 6 Apr (ph. HDB), and a male Eurasian Wigeon x American Wigeon hybrid remained on Hitchcock Road Pond, *LaPorte*, IN 13-16 Mar (PS, CS, m.ob.). A male American Black Duck seen at the Grant Street wetland, *Lake*, IN 19 May (JJM, m.ob.) was apparently paired with a female Mallard. A male Cinnamon Teal was at Cane Ridge 15-19 Mar (JL, JH, fide HDH, ph. SG; m.ob.); another was at McHenry Dam, *McHenry*, IL 15 Apr (ph. MAT). Among the record 16,000+ Northern Shovelers recorded in Indiana were an impressive 2619 at Patoka R. 1 Apr (LWS, KM). A male Northern Pintail lingered at Emiquon 25 May (KAM, MSS), and a male Green-winged Teal remained at Prairie Ridge 21 May+ (CLH).

Three Redheads were still at Emiquon 25 May (KAM, MSS), and the last Harlequin Duck to depart was a male in Chicago 28 Mar (ph. JIE). Two Surf Scoters on Rainbow L. 18 Mar (TG) were the first ever for Adams, IN; the latest was a male in Livingston, IL 5 May (DBJ et al.). Late White-winged Scoters included 3 off Dunes 14 May (BJG) and a female at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Lake, IL 13 Apr (DRD). A female Black Scoter at Hammond Lakefront Sanctuary, Lake, IN 2 Mar (MT) was the only one reported. An excellent tally of 120 Long-tailed Ducks occurred at Illinois Beach S.P., Lake, IL 4 Mar (EWW). Five inland reports from Illinois included 2 lingering individuals at Spoon L., Knox 27-31 Mar (MJB, DJM). The male Barrow's Goldeneye from winter at Skokie Lagoons, Cook, IL was last seen 6 Mar (AFS). A tardy male Common Merganser was at Springfield, Sangamon, IL 27 May (HDB).

The maximum count of 23 Greater Prairie-Chickens 9 Mar (RES) was discouraging, as numbers at Prairie Ridge continue to spiral downward. Indiana's record spring flight of 225 Red-throated Loons extended through 14 May, when 5 were present off Dunes (BJG). At Eagle Creek Park, Indianapolis, a Pacific Loon showed up 9 Mar (LP, RFB), and 2 were on L. Lemon, Monroe, IN 26 Apr (ER, RR et al.). Three Red-necked Grebes included 2 in St. Clair, IL 3 Mar (TJD) and a single at Summit L., Henry, IN 6 Mar (BH). Most cooperative among the season's 5 Eared Grebes was one at Fermilab, DuPage, IL 23 Apr-3 May (PK, ph. ASA, m.ob.). The Spring Bird Count at Carlyle 5 May tallied the only Western Grebe (DMK).

CORMORANTS THROUGH RAILS

A Neotropic Cormorant seen off of Calumet Park, Cook, IL 11 Apr (ph. AAA) moved into Indiana waters, providing a 2nd state record. The bird was subsequently at the ComEd plant in extreme nw. Indiana 25-29 Apr (AAA, PBG, BJG, m.ob.), and the same or another ad. was at L. Calumet in s. Chicago 5 May (†WJM, MLB, JIN). An ad. (or near ad.) was at Eagle Creek Park, Indianapolis 7 May (KR, ph. RJS, DG), and an imm. was there the following day (ph. TAW, LH). Another ad. was seen briefly at Mermet 11 May (KAM). An Anhinga was at Emiquon 21 Apr (TW, ph. CD), while 3 were at the known Johnson, IL nesting location 28 Apr (CAT, SDB). The 750 American White Pelicans at Goose Pond 25 Mar (ER, RR) set yet another Indiana record; Illinois's high count was 4000 at Carlyle 1-6 Apr (DMK). A Brown Pelican lingered at Patoka L., Orange, IN 12 (AK, NK) through 26 May (JCK, m.ob.).

An American Bittern at Mackinaw Bluffs, Woodford, IL 10 Mar (MEF) was rather early. A Snowy Egret was found at the northerly locale

of Merrillville, Lake, IN between 17 (BZ) and 19 May (LWS, KM, m.ob.). At Goose Pond, a Tricolored Heron made an appearance 19 May (DG, RJS). Indiana's 2nd earliest Little Blue Heron, an ad., was at Wolf L., Lake 24 Mar (MT). Though both species were generally scarce, maximum counts of 60 Cattle Egrets at Cahokia Mounds Historic Site, St. Clair, IL 26 May (DMK) and 70 Black-crowned Night-Herons in Chicago's Lincoln Park 1 May (MM) were respectable. *Plegadis* ibis invaded the Region, with at least 24 reported. Notable were 4 Glossy Ibis at Nelson L., Kane, IL 17 Apr (ph. NB), 3 White-faced ibis at Horseshoe L., Madison, IL 21 Apr (FRH), and 3 ibis in e. Franklin, IN 2 May, of which at least 2 were White-faced (DGr, DR, BH, *fide* WHB), providing a first county record.

On 10 May, a Swallow-tailed Kite in Harrison (RLH, MHO) provided the first Indiana record since 2007. A Mississippi Kite at Horseshoe L., Madison, IL 15 Apr was about 10 days early (FRH). An Indiana record 334 Sharp-shinned Hawks were logged from the Green Tower 1 May (BJG, LN, LA, KJB), with an imm. Northern Goshawk there the same day (BJG, LN, KJB) provided Indiana's first May record. Excellent spring tallies of 90 and 86 Broad-winged Hawks were made 15 Apr from the Green Tower (BJG) and 24 Apr in Knox, IL (MJB), respectively. Swainson's Hawks returned to their n. Illinois stronghold: one in McHenry 14 Apr and 2 in Kane 29 Apr were noted (RAM, ALM). A light-morph Swainson's flew past the Green Tower 1 May (BJG, LN, KJB). An Indiana record 13 Merlins were also logged at the Green Tower 15 Apr (BJG, BB, KJB). At least 30 itinerant Peregrine Falcons were reported, further evidence of the perceived increase in migrants through the Region.

Rails were rather sparse this season. Single Yellow Rails were at Goose Pond 10-11 May (*fide* LWS). A Black Rail was noted at Prairie Ridge 22 May (CLH), and an early Virginia Rail was at Mskoda Sands, Kankakee, IL 15 Mar (JBH). On 12 May, 19 Common Gallinules were tallied at Grant Street wetland (JJM), tying Indiana's 2nd highest spring count. A large movement of Sandhill Cranes 10 Mar included 6644 at the Green Tower (JKC, LSH, BB, BJG et al.) and 6200 at Lake Villa, Lake, IL (RB). Also notable were 2 Sandhills at Goose Pond 22-23 May (EMH, G&LB).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Indiana's earliest American Golden-Plover ever was at Patoka R. 6 Mar (ph. SG, TEG, JHC), and counts of over 5000 were reported at three Illinois locations. Three Semipalmated Plovers at Bellrose Reserve, Pulaski, IL 9 Apr (KAM) were early, while 441 at Goose Pond 12 May (JBr) established a new Indiana maximum. Early Piping Plovers at Montrose included a non-banded

bird 14 Apr (ph. LR) and a banded bird 15 Apr (ph. SGS); singles were at Tern Bar Slough, Gibson, IN 23 Apr (SG), at Celery Bog, Tippecanoe, IN 29 Apr (AL), at Eagle Marsh, Fort Wayne, IN 29 Apr (JAH), at L. Gibson, Gibson, IN 2 May (AK, CEM, JSC), and at Big L., Fulton, IL 28 Apr and 6 May (KBR). Black-necked Stilts returned early, with 2 at Patoka R. 25 Mar (VW), 4 at Goose Pond 26 Mar (ER), and one at Cane Ridge and 2 in the L. Gibson area 28 Mar (AK et al.). Emiquon hosted an excellent total of 65 stilts 22 Apr (KBR). American Avocets were widespread: the earliest was at Carlyle 14 Apr (KAM, MSS), 6 were at White Oak L., McLean, IL 29 Apr (TH, MJW), 4 were at Springfield, Sangamon, IL 14 Apr (HDB), and 7 were at Ewing Bottoms, Jackson, IN 9 May (VWW).

An extremely eager Spotted Sandpiper appeared at Carlyle 5-8 Mar (MSS, DMK). Good numbers of Willets moved through the Region, 50 at El Paso Sewage Lagoons, Woodford, IL 30 Apr being noteworthy (MJW, TH, MEF). An incredible 6000 Lesser Yellowlegs were tallied at Carlyle 6-8 Apr (DMK), and 1556 were logged at Patoka R. 25 Mar (LWS, KM). An exceptional number of Whimbrels away from L. Michigan included 15 at Spunky Bottoms, Brown, IL 26 May (TW), 3 at Mermet 16 Apr (FKB), one at Emiquon 17 Apr (KBR), with 2 there 25 May (KBR, APS, KAM, MSS), 2 at Goose Pond 12 May (LWS, J&SH, JKR et al.), and one at Willow Slough F.W.A., Newton, IN 14 May (RLH, CH, LC, JKC). Early Hudsonian Godwits included singles at Carlyle (DMK) and at Emiquon (KBR) 15 Apr and at Tern Bar Slough, Gibson, IN 17 Apr (TEG, SG, SD). An impressive 14 Hudsonians were at Emiquon 21 Apr (TW, CD), while a tardy individual was in Stephenson, IL 26 May (DBJ, RE). Seven reports of Marbled Godwits involved 38 individuals: 24 at Montrose 14 Apr (ph. NG) fell one shy of the record Illinois count, while the 6 at Carlyle 14 Apr (KAM, MSS) and 4 at Waukegan, Lake, IL 30 Apr (AS, ph. JRRS) constituted the other reports of multiple birds. An excellent inland tally of 22 Ruddy Turnstones was made at Carlyle 30 May (DMK). The 272 Semipalmated Sandpipers at L. Gibson, Gibson 27 May (AK, NK) furnished a record Indiana count. There was a very nice flight of White-rumped Sandpipers, five Illinois locations reporting counts over 20. Unusual for spring was a Purple Sandpiper at Waukegan, Lake, IL 31 Mar (PWS, AFS, RE, RDH). An excellent spring flight of Dunlin included 1200 at Carlyle 29 Apr (DMK) and, in Indiana, a spring-record 579 at Goose Pond 12 May (LWS). A Curlew Sandpiper in alternate plumage appeared at Goose Pond 22 May (ph. RJS, m.ob.) and lingered through 25 May, providing a 3rd spring record for Indiana. Rarely seen spring Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at Goose Pond

8 May (MRB) and Montrose 24 May (JIE, ph. KAM, MSS, APS, m.ob.). A Ruff was an exciting find at Carlyle 18 Apr (MSS, MJB, KBR, KAM). Record early for Indiana was a Long-billed Dowitcher at Cane Ridge 9 Mar (HDH) and 2 there the following day (G&LB). An early Wilson's Phalarope was at Bellrose Reserve, Pulaski, IL 19 Mar (KAM). Four Red-necked Phalarope reports included singles at Wakarusa W.T.F., Elkhart, IN 4-6 May (J&EH, JKC), at Carlyle 18 May (DMK), at Goose Pond 23-26 May (LWS, m.ob.), and at Celery Bog, Tippecanoe, IN 31 May (JSk et al.).

In general, gull and tern numbers were very low this spring. Single Little Gulls were at Springfield, Sangamon, IL 28 Mar (HDB) and at Clinton L., DeWitt, IL 14 Apr (GSL et al.). Some 14 Laughing Gull sightings were scattered throughout the Region. For the 9th consecutive year, the putative Laughing Gull x Ring-billed Gull hybrid was at Calumet Park in s. Chicago and in nw. Indiana 4 Mar (ph. AAA). The ad. Kumlien's Iceland Gull that frequented the Hammond Marina, Lake, IN through the winter remained through the late date of 28 Apr (CAM), and an ad. and imm. were noted in Lake, IL 29 Apr (RDH). A presumed Glaucous Gull x Great Black-backed Gull hybrid was seen from the Green Tower 16 Mar (JJM, BJG, LWS, KM, KJB). A late Great Black-backed Gull was at Waukegan, Lake, IL 1 May (EWW).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

A White-winged Dove at Montrose 1 Apr (ph. RC) and 6 May (†GAW, CLW) was possibly the same bird as seen at Grant Park 25 May (DBJ, CL, JN, JIN); another flew past the Green Tower 15 Apr (BJG, BB). Following the winter invasion of Snowy Owls, unprecedented numbers lingered into the spring. In Illinois, late birds were in McHenry 11 May (KML) and in Rockford, Winnebago 14 May (KE), and one reported s. of Chesterton, Porter, IN 30 Apr (WM) remained through 15 May (JB), furnishing Indiana's 2nd May record. A very tardy Northern Saw-whet Owl was photographed in Champaign, IL 10 May (ph. GC). A single Chimney Swift at the Green Tower 27 Mar (BJG) was the earliest ever for the Indiana lakefront. Early Ruby-throated Hummingbirds appeared at Newburgh, Warrick, IN 22 Mar (TEG) and at Mishawaka, St. Joseph, IN 26 Mar (THi). The Rufous Hummingbird that wintered in Fort Wayne, IN was last seen 17 Apr (fide RJS).

Flycatchers had a sterling season. Impressive were the 24 Alder Flycatchers seen in Chicago 25 May (MH). A Say's Phoebe was near Goshen, Elkhart, IN 16-17 Apr (DS, ph. LS, NM et al.). Indiana's first Western Kingbird for the month of Apr flew past the Green Tower 30 Apr (BJG, BB), and another was there 23 May (BJG).

Among Illinois's 9 Western Kingbirds was a possible Western Kingbird x Scissor-tailed Flycatcher hybrid at Palos, Cook 17 May (ph. PD). Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were in Marshall, IN 14 Apr (JM fide LS), in Champaign, IL 23 Apr (SS), at the Green Tower 2 May (BJG), in Monroe, IL 4-5 May (C&PD), in Union, IL 5 May (ph. CHu), and in Bond, IL 5-6 May (ph. DMK, MSS, ph. KAM). It was a good year for Loggerhead Shrikes. They were seen in four Indiana counties, with 10 (7 ads. and 3 fledglings) in Orange 9 May (AK), and 19 were spread across six s. Illinois counties the first week of May (CLH, RES), with 6 in Edwards 5 May (RES).

It was an excellent spring for vireos. All the following were record early for the respective states: a White-eyed Vireo 19 Mar and a Warbling Vireo 31 Mar at Mermet (KAM), single Warbling Vireos from Indiana at Eagle Slough 7 Apr (TEG) and at Stillwater Marsh, Monroe 7 Apr (DRW), and Red-eyed Vireos in e. Monroe, IN 3 Apr (DRW) and Jackson, IL 6 Apr (KAM).

The 3 Fish Crows at Patoka R. 21 Mar (ES) were Indiana's earliest ever. Early swallow arrivals included a Purple Martin at Mermet 2 Mar (FKB); 5 Cliffs in Metropolis, Massac 19 Mar (KAM) that tied Illinois's 2nd earliest arrival date; and a Barn Swallow in Jackson 5 Mar (fide RSR) that tied Illinois's 2nd earliest date. A Bewick's Wren returned to the traditional nesting site at Siloam Springs S.P., Adams, IL 21 Apr (fide TW). Single Illinois House Wrens in DuPage 22 Mar (SAC), Massac 29 Mar (FKB), Sangamon 30 Mar (HDB), and Knox 3 Apr (DJM), plus a Marsh Wren at Goose Pond 17 Mar (JID), were early. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at New Columbia, Massac, IL 17 Mar (FKB) was ahead of schedule, while an amazing passage of 248 gnatcatchers at the Green Tower 3 May (BJG) more than doubled the previous Indiana maximum. The *Catharus* thrush flight provided weak numbers and few early arrivals. A Varied Thrush appeared at Lake Villa, Lake, IL 3-13 Mar (ph. G&WT). A phenomenal movement of 6609 Cedar Waxwings past the Green Tower 20 May (BJG) established Indiana's 2nd highest daily count.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Worm-eating Warbler at Pomona, Jackson 6 Apr (KAM) tied Illinois's earliest arrival date. Also record early for Illinois was a Louisiana Waterthrush at LaRue Pine Hills, Union 14 Mar (KAM). Of Indiana's 10 earliest arrival records ever for Louisiana Waterthrush, 6 were logged this spring, including singles in Hamilton (GO) and Brown (GAK) 18 Mar. A Black-and-white Warbler at Springfield, Sangamon, IL 21 Mar (HDB) and 2 at Fort Massac S.P., Massac, IL 25 Mar (KAM) were notably early, as was one in Whiteside, IL 29 Mar (DTW), given the northerly location. A Tennessee Warbler at New Columbia, Massac 6 Apr (FKB) was record early for Illinois. In Indiana, a record-early Nashville Warbler was found in nw. Warrick 3 Apr (JHC), and a state-record 40 were tallied at Wesselman Woods, Vanderburgh 28 Apr (ES). An Indiana record 32 Hooded Warblers were tallied at Brown County S.P. 15 May (BB). More early warbler arrival dates were set in Indiana by an American Redstart at Charlestown S.P., Clark 1 Apr (T&CB), a Cerulean Warbler at Patoka R. 10 Apr (JR), and a Magnolia Warbler at Eagle Slough 1 Apr (CN). Indiana's first record of Prairie Warbler for the month of Mar was logged at Bloomington, Monroe 30 Mar (DA), and a state-record 50 were found in Orange, IN 12 May (JyB).

It was an above-average sparrow flight; several species arrived early, while overwintering species pushed northward ahead of schedule. An American Tree Sparrow at Chicago's Grant Park 10 May (JIE) was late to depart. Early sparrow arrivals included a Vesper Sparrow at Montrose 11 Mar (ABB); a Lark Sparrow at Carlyle 9 Apr (DMK); a Grasshopper Sparrow at Montrose 14 Mar (ph. JIE) that set a new Illinois early arrival date; a Henslow's Sparrow at Goose Pond 20 Mar (BF) and 8 at Prairie Ridge 21 Mar (CLH) that were record early for Illinois; and a Lincoln's Sparrow at Spring Creek Nursery, Cass, IN 8 Mar (LN). Completely unexpected was a singing Le Conte's Sparrow at Eagle Marsh, Fort Wayne, IN 13 Apr (JAH). Seven Nelson's Sparrows were re-

SA Two teenage Illinois birders, Ethan and Aaron Gyllenhaal, made a remarkable discovery while birding Chicago's Douglas Park 17 Apr. They saw and photographed a small, unknown flycatcher. Their photographs were posted immediately to Illinois Birder's Forum (IBF), and another Chicago teen birder, Nathan Goldberg, suggested the bird was an elaenia. Over the next several days, the listserves and the IBF thread started by the boys were loaded with comments, suggestions about the identification of the flycatcher, and of course, updates on the bird, which subsequently was relocated, pleasing hundreds of birders from across the United States who came and witnessed this delightful little flycatcher. The bird was present through 22 Apr. As for the identification, the jury is still out. Experts are split between Small-billed Elaenia and White-crested Elaenia. If it's a Small-billed, this would represent the first U.S. record, while a single prior U.S. record of White-crested exists from Texas in 2008.

ported from Illinois, with 5 in Chicago. There were four reports involving 5 Harris's Sparrows in Illinois: at Middletown, Logan 5 Mar (APS, MAM); at Fort Sheridan, Lake 3 May (RCO, MMh); 2 near Seward, Winnebago 6 May (AW, m.ob.); and the latest at Rockford, Winnebago 11 May (DTW, BCW). A Scarlet Tanager in Brown 8 Apr (DRW) tied Indiana's early arrival date. On 11 May, a male Western Tanager was photographed at Crown Point, Lake (PB, fide BB), providing Indiana's 8th record, and a female was in Chicago's Jackson Park 20 May (†PRC). A male Blue Grosbeak in Tippecanoe, IN 16 Apr (EMH) was rather early, as was a female Indigo Bunting in Chicago's Jackson Park 15 Apr (PKD). No Painted Buntings returned to their E. St. Louis, St. Clair, IL nesting territories (fide DMK). Dickcissels invaded in excellent numbers, as 276 were at American Bottoms, Monroe, IL 5 May (C&PD) and 256 at Bluegrass F.W.A., Warrick, IN 20 May (ES).

An exciting find was a female Yellow-headed Blackbird at Emiquon 18 Mar (JIE), and a singing male at Goose Pond 3 May (J&SH, ER et al.) provided a rare inland record for Indiana. The tally of 88 Orchard Orioles in Monroe, IL 5 May (C&PD) indicated an excellent flight. Winter finches had an unexpectedly good flight.

Solo Red Crossbills were noted 9 Mar in Cook, IL (GN) and 16 Mar at the Green Tower (BJG, JJM, LWS), where 2 were observed the following day (BJG, JKC, JCK, LSH et al.). An invasion of White-winged Crossbills was highlighted by 40-50 at Pine Canyon L., Steuben, IN 1 Mar (JAH, SSc, MW), 15 at Morton Arboretum, DuPage, IL 3 Mar (JAS et al.), and 30+ on the Purdue University campus, Tippecanoe, IN 4 Mar (REA). Several southerly birds were recorded in Mar at Bloomington, IN (KG, E&N&AK, DRW), and a late flock of 15 was at the Klehm Arboretum, Rockford, Winnebago, IL 11 May (MKR). A late Common Redpoll flew past the Green Tower 15 Apr (BJG).

Contributors cited (subregional editors in boldface): Andrew S. Aldrich, Don Allen, Russell E. Allison, Laramie Aspegren, Amar A. Ayyash, Steven D. Bailey, Margaret L. Baker, Nick Barber, Michael J. Baum, Tom & Coleen Becker, Frank K. Bennett, Richard Biss, Alex B. Bloss, Polly Bodinet, H. David Bohlen, Jay Bolden (JyB), Jim Bonfield, Gary & Lisa Bowman, **Kenneth J. Brock** (Indiana), Jim Brown (JBr), Michael R. Brown, Brad Bumgardner, Robert F. Buskirk, William H. Buskirk, Gene Campbell, Jim H. Campbell, Lee Casebere, John K. Cas-

sady, John S. Castrale, Paul R. Clyne, Rena Cohen (RCO), Rob Curtis, Paul Dacko, Sarajane Damin, Donald R. Dann, Carl & Pen Daubach, Tim J. Dever, Colin Dobson, Paul K. Doughty, Jerry I. Downs, Kristin Ellis, Joshua I. Engel, Robert Ericson, Brad Feaster, Matthew E. Fraker, Steve Gifford, Nathan Goldberg, Don Gorney, Terri Gorney, Tim E. Griffith, Debi Gross (DGr), Brendan J. Grube, Kris Grube, Peter B. Grube, Matt Hale, Heath D. Hamilton, John & Elaine Harley, C. Leroy Harrison, Ted Hartzler, Larry Haugh, James A. Haw, Cloyce Hedge, Roger L. Hedge, James & Susan Hengeveld, Jake Henning, Jed B. Hertz, Tim Hill (THi), Lynea S. Hinchman, Bob Holmes, Frank R. Holmes, Mike Homoya (MHo), Edward M. Hopkins, Robert D. Hughes, Cathie Hutcheson (CHu), Illinois Ornithological Society, David B. Johnson, Emily & Nichole & Anne Kammen, Peter Kasper, Dan M. Kassebaum, Amy Kearns, Noah Kearns, Geoffrey A. Keller, Greg Keller, John C. Kendall, Alvin Laasanen, Gregory S. Lambeth, John Lindstrom, Cyndi Lubecki, Karen M. Lund, Michael A. Madsen, Walter J. Marcisz, Caroline A. Marsh, Maureen Marsh (MMh), Kathy McClain, Jeffrey J. McCoy, Keith A. McMullen, William Meyer, John Miller, Neal Miller, Chuck E. Mills, Anita L. Morgan, Robert A. Morgan, D. James Mountjoy, Mike Mulcahy, Greg Neise, Landon Neumann, Chris Newman, Jill Niland, Joan I. Norek, Greg Osland, Larry Peavler, Laurance Reed, Phil J. Reyburn, Kevin B. Richmond, Jeff K. Riegel, Eric Ripma, Rob Ripma, Jeremy Ross, Kirk Roth, Rhonda S. Rothrock, Mary Kay Rubey, Dave Russell, Ryan J. Sanderson, Sandy Schacht (SSc), Dave Schwartz, John Schwegman (JSc), Mark S. Seiffert, Adam Sell, Leland Shaum, Robert E. Shelby, John Skene (JSk), Jeffrey R.R. Skrentny, Andrew P. Sigler, Jeff A. Smith, Suzanne Smith, Evan Speck, Steven G. Spitzer, Penny Starin, Lee W. Sterrenburg, Alan F. Stokie, Jim Sullivan, Paul W. Sweet, Carl Swisher, Craig A. Taylor, Gayle & William Teltz, Mary Anne Thomas, Michael Topp, Jeffery W. Walk, Terry A. Walsh, Eric W. Walters, Tony Ward, Vicky Whitaker, Donald R. Whitehead, Ann Whitney, Vern W. Wilkins, Barbara C. Williams, Daniel T. Williams, Jr., Christine L. Williamson, **Geoffrey A. Williamson** (Illinois), Matthew J. Winks, Marisa Windell, Bob Zaremba. Many others submitted observations but could not be personally acknowledged; all have our thanks for their contributions. ☺

James D. Hengeveld, 6354 Southshore Drive, Unionville, Indiana 47468, (jhengeve@indiana.edu)
Keith A. McMullen, 1405 DeSoto, O'Fallon, Illinois 62269, (warbler7@sbcglobal.net)
Geoffrey A. Williamson, 4046 North Clark Street, Unit K, Chicago, Illinois 60613, (geoffrey.williamson@comcast.net)

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Adam M. Byrne

Migration was stimulated by astonishingly warm mid-March temperatures, ranging from 10-17° F above average in Minnesota to nearly 30° above the norm in Wisconsin and Michigan. This pronounced warm spell ushered in many early migrants, so that a large proportion of species like Brown Thrasher and Chipping Sparrow were back earlier than their typical first arrival dates. For all three states, temperatures were near normal in April and above average in May. As a result, many record or near-record arrival dates were reported, and much of the migration was over by 20 May. Minnesota and Wisconsin received significant precipitation, especially in May, with areas in Minnesota getting over 20 cm for the month. Michigan, however, had below-average precipitation in both April and May; by late May, the Upper Peninsula was suffering from drought, contributing to a significant fire in Luce County that burned over 8500 ha (21,000 acres).

Seasonal highlights in Minnesota were the state's third Brown Pelican, first spring Purple Sandpiper, three Black-necked Stilts, and a Golden-crowned Sparrow. Highlights from Wisconsin included a Brown Pelican, Purple Sandpiper, Vermilion Flycatcher, and Golden-crowned Sparrow. Noteworthy in Michigan were a Cinnamon Teal, Northern Gannet, two Purple Sandpipers, Arctic Tern, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow.

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

Large numbers of Greater White-fronted and Ross's Geese appeared in early Mar across the Region. Unusual for e.-cen. Minnesota were thousands of Greater White-fronteds that appeared day after day in mid-Mar, peaking at a state high 5633 in Jackson 10 Mar (DFN, PEJ). Wisconsin experienced an increase and eastward shift of Ross's Geese, with flocks of 10+ in five counties and a peak of 31 in Rock 11 Mar (SW). A large flock of Ross's Geese was present in Allegan, MI 10-18 Mar, with totals reaching a state high 66 on 17 Mar (AMB, BM, MM). Michigan hosted Eurasian Wigeons in Oakland 14-19 Apr (PB, KO, m.ob.) and Bay 19 Apr-5 May (MM, m.ob.). Minnesota had 2 male Cin-

namon Teal in Lac Qui Parle 15-18 Apr (CV, m.ob.), another drake in Lac Qui Parle about 16 km away 28 Apr-13 May (KL, m.ob.), and a possible Blue-winged Teal x Cinnamon Teal hybrid in Crow Wing 26 May (AB); Wisconsin had drakes in Adams 18 Apr-14 May (MS) and Waukesha 29 Apr-1 May (HR), while Michigan had one in Gratiot 25 Mar (AMB, m.ob.). Scoters were generally scarce in Minnesota but found in good numbers in both Wisconsin and Michigan; 2 White-winged Scoters in Cook, MN 17 Mar were early. A drake Barrow's Goldeneye at Duluth Harbor, St. Louis, MN 22 Mar (PHS) was probably the same individual seen sporadically since the fall. Minnesota had another drake in Lac Qui Parle 16 Mar (JF) and a Common Goldeneye x Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid for the 3rd consecutive year at Duluth. Wisconsin reported a male Barrow's Goldeneye in Sheboygan 11 Mar.

Northern Bobwhite reports were limited to six s. Michigan counties. Wisconsin's only Gray Partridge sighting consisted of 2 in Iowa, WI 17 May (MH), illustrating the early migration this spring. Red-throated Loon numbers peaked at 92 on 20 Apr at Whitefish Pt., Chippewa, MI (KB); in most years, the peak occurs during the first week of May. In Minnesota, 8 Red-throateds in St. Louis, MN 18 Apr (JLK) were very early; all other reports also came from St. Louis, with peaks of 18 on both 19 (fide PHS) & 28 May (DWK, SBM). Wisconsin birders found Red-throated Loons on L. Michigan in Mar and Apr and L. Superior in late May. Pacific Loon was notable for its absence in the Region this spring. Good numbers of Red-necked Grebes were found in 20 Wisconsin counties, peaking at 27 in Ashland/Bayfield 31 Mar (NA, TK). A Red-necked Grebe in Clinton, MI 25 Mar (BC) was a good find in an inland county. Unusual for Michigan were Eared Grebes in Tuscola 25 Mar (JVA) and Oakland 16 Apr (BH), while Wisconsin had singles in Green Lake 12 Apr (DT) and Dane 17 Apr (BE). Unusual for ne. Minnesota were Eared Grebes in Itasca 12 May

(JLK) and Koochiching 31 May (RAE). A Western Grebe in Chippewa 10 May (KB) furnished Michigan's first May record; Wisconsin had 4 Western Grebes in early May, and Minnesota had one in Koochiching 16 May (RAE). The only Clark's Grebe was in Lac Qui Parle, MN 20 May (BJU). Last fall's Northern Gannet survived the winter on L. Superior, evidenced by its reappearance at Whitefish Pt. 24 Apr (KB). A Brown Pelican split time between Minnesota and Wisconsin along the St. Croix and Mississippi R. 3-9 Apr, providing the states their 3rd and 10th records, respectively.

The only Little Blue Heron was found in Grant, WI 5-6 May (RB), while Minnesota had the only Tricolored Heron in Wright 19 May (p.a., MJB). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found in Lafayette, WI 6 May (QY) and Oakland, MI 11 May+ (JFo, m.ob.). White-faced Ibis made a strong incursion into Minnesota, with a remarkable number of sightings near the Twin Cities and record counts in the w.-cen. region, peaking at 33 White-faced and 20 *Plegadis* ibis in Lac Qui Parle 22 Apr (PCC). Wisconsin reported a single White-faced in Brown 17-18 Apr (TV) and 2 in Trempealeau 23 Apr (AS), while Michigan had one in Muskegon 21 Apr (ZD) and up to 3 in Tuscola 9-14 May (SF, LD). Two Glossy Ibis were in Outagamie, WI 21 May (p.a., RP).

VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Record early was a Black Vulture in Portage, WI 11 Apr (RP), while Michigan had one in Ionia 16 Mar (CP) and at least 2 in Mackinac 25 Mar-9 Apr (SB). The only Mississippi Kite was in Green Lake, WI 7 May (DC, SC). A Broad-winged Hawk in Dane, WI 19 Apr (ST) was also record early. Michigan reported 11 Swainson's Hawks from five counties, including rare s. reports from Berrien 15 May (PCC) and Monroe 16 Apr (WP); Wisconsin had a single Swainson's Hawk in Dane 19 Apr (AP). The only Prairie Falcon was in Polk, MN in early Apr (BB). Record early was a Yellow Rail



A flock of 37 American Avocets visited Milwaukee, Wisconsin in spring 2012 (here 1 May), part of a generally good flight of this species and other large shorebirds in the Western Great Lakes region this season. Photograph by Matthew L. Collison.

in Walworth, WI 28 Mar–6 May (EH); otherwise, singles in four other counties made a good showing after last year's paucity. King Rails were in Dodge, WI 1 May+ (DT) and Monroe, MI 18–30 May (AMB, PCC).

Many commented that several shorebirds arrived earlier than normal and in above-average numbers. American Golden-Plovers were noted in large numbers in Wisconsin, with over 200 in 13 counties after 23 Mar. Minnesota had a Piping Plover in Swift 20 Apr (DLP), while Wisconsin reported lone May migrants from three e. counties and 9 at a nesting site in Ashland 15 May (JT, VC). Minnesota had single Black-necked Stilts in Blue Earth 20–23 Apr (AK, CH, m.ob.), Hennepin 15 Apr (m.ob.), and Brown 19 May

(SV, BTS). Wisconsin had 10 stilts in five counties, including 3 record-early birds in Dodge 6 Apr (MW). American Avocets, Willets, Whimbrel, and both godwits were reported in good numbers. Wisconsin had 2 Red Knots in Ashland/Bayfield 19–21 May (RBr) and Racine 26 May (SL), while Michigan had 9 knots in four counties. Probable White-rumped Sandpiper x Dunlin hybrids were reported from Bayfield, WI 23–24 May (NA) and Monroe, MI (SBa). Rare in spring was a Baird's Sandpiper in Berrien, MI 18–19 Apr (TS, JW, MO, TB). The mild winter undoubtedly led to rare spring Purple Sandpiper reports from all three states. Minnesota had its 7th Purple Sandpiper (and first in the spring) in Lake 17 Mar (HP). Michigan had singles in Mason through 13 Apr (DD) and Ottawa 24 Mar (CM, m.ob.), while Wisconsin had one in Milwaukee 19 Mar (JP). Also rare in spring was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Pipestone, MN 27 May (CRM, m.ob.). Ruffs made appearances in Olmsted, MN 18 Apr (m.ob.), Genesee, MI 5 May (JSt, JB), and Dane, WI 13 May (PF).

GULLS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

A substantial movement of 1068 Bonaparte's Gulls at Whitefish Pt. on 12 May brought with them 9 Little Gulls (KB). A first-cycle Little Gull crossed state lines in St. Louis, MN and Douglas, WI 28 May (TP, TK). Wisconsin had 4 Laughing Gulls along L. Michigan in May, while Michigan birders found at least 2 birds in Berrien and one in Monroe. Record early for Wisconsin was a Franklin's Gull in La Crosse 6



Typically a scarce migrant in the Western Great Lakes region, with only a dozen found in spring 2012, this Red Knot was photographed in Racine County, Wisconsin on 26 May. Photograph by Matthew L. Collison.

Mar (DJ). Single Franklin's Gulls were found in Iosco 12 May (MWi) and Huron 14 May (ME, LD), both in Michigan. Minnesota's only Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Duluth, St. Louis mid-Mar (fide JWL). Glaucous Gulls lingered in Duluth through mid-Apr, then none were noted until 29 May at Superior Entry, St. Louis, MN (NA, TK, TP). Great Black-backed Gulls were absent at Duluth after Mar, until a first-cycle bird was found 19 May (PHS, KS, FJN). An Arctic Tern was in Monroe, MI 30 May (ST, AMB, BM). Up to 3 Parasitic Jaegers were noted in Douglas, WI 22–29 May, while Michigan had 3 Parasitics and one unidentified jaeger



Still a rare vagrant to Wisconsin, and very much so in spring, this Vermilion Flycatcher was noted in Milwaukee County 29 April 2012. Photograph by John Dixon.

at Whitefish Pt. in the period 19–27 May (KB, PCC, m.ob.).

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to colonize Minnesota, with reports from 47 counties (up from 35 last spring). Michigan's Berrien had a single collared-dove 21 Mar as well as its first White-winged Dove 1 May (TB). Minnesota had a White-winged Dove in Winona 21–22 Apr (HHD, AN), while Wisconsin had singles in Washington 19–20 Apr (JG) and Milwaukee 3 May (JA). A weak Barn Owl was picked up in a barn in Ottawa, MI 21 May. Snowy Owls were last noted on 14 May in Michigan and 20 May in Wisconsin but only 9 Apr in Minnesota (but see the summer report for a resurgence in reports). No Northern Hawk Owls and only 4 Great Gray Owls were reported. The only Boreal Owls were 11 captured at Whitefish Pt. 20 Mar–11 May. Chuck-will's-widows were in Jackson 9 May+ (DRH) and Walworth 19 May+ (ASt), both Wisconsin, while Michigan had singles in Ottawa 28 Apr (JOv) and Jackson 10–14 May (DRH).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Minnesota hosted the only American Three-toed Woodpeckers, with an out-of-range report from Crow Wing 3–10 Mar (AC, MBS, CMB) and sightings in Cook, Lake, and Koochiching. Record early for Wisconsin was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Waushara 7 Apr (DG). Minnesota hosted a Say's Phoebe in Fillmore 21–22 Apr (HHD, AN, m.ob.), and Wisconsin had a Vermilion Flycatcher in Milwaukee 29 Apr (JH, BK). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were found in Wayne, MI 1–2 May (PCy, NC, m.ob.), Waupaca, WI 5–9 May (JSc), Berrien, MI 12 May (NF), and Beltrami, MN 24 May (AN). The only Loggerhead Shrike was in Iosco, MI 25 May (RE). Up to 2 Fish Crows continued in Berrien, MI.

Record early for Minnesota were a Tree Swallow in Hennepin 1 Mar (RBJ), a Northern Rough-winged Swallow in Redwood 17 Mar (SV), and a Bank Swallow in Dakota 3 Apr (JLO). Very early were Sedge Wrens in Lac Qui Parle 15 Apr (D&BM) and Rice 17 Apr (TFB), both in Minnesota. Record early in Wisconsin were a Marsh Wren in Columbia 19 Mar (NCu, CS), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Dane 28 Mar (IB), and Wood Thrush in Milwaukee 14 Apr (CHa). Townsend's Solitaires were recorded in four Minnesota and two Michigan counties, while Varied Thrushes were

noted in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Smith's Longspurs were found in five Minnesota counties, peaking at 47 in Brown 18 Apr (BTS). Michigan had up to 3 Smith's Longspurs in two different Berrien locations.

Setting early records were Louisiana Waterthrushes in Rice, MN 8 Apr (DAB) and Iowa, WI 26 Mar (CR). Also early was an Orange-crowned Warbler in Kalamazoo, MI 29 Mar (JB). Hooded Warblers were in traditional Minnesota locations in Dakota and Scott, as well as in Hennepin, Washington, and Wabasha 17 May (DB), the last furnishing a first county record. Kirtland's Warblers again put on a good show in Michigan, with a very early bird in Ogemaw 1 May (NC) and out-of-range individuals in Washtenaw 5 May (MSe), Iosco 17 May (JZ), and Chippewa 27 May (TB, PCC, m.ob.); Wisconsin recorded 17 males in Adams and singles in three other counties. Also record early for Wisconsin were Palm Warblers in Milwaukee 15 Mar (JD) and Dane 16 Mar (JS) and a Pine Warbler in Iowa 22 Mar (AH). Pine Warblers in Ramsey (BL) and Washington (PN), both Minnesota, were very early on 4 Apr.

TOWHEES THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

Minnesota had Spotted Towhees in Ramsey 20 Apr (CC), Otter Tail 22 Apr (SPM), and Lyon 16 May (BWF, JWH), while Michigan had one in Alger 29 May (EW). Early migrant sparrows in Minnesota included a Clay-colored Sparrow in Clay 20 Apr (DP), Field Sparrow in Morrison 9 Apr (FG), Vesper Sparrow in Polk 31 Mar (HH), and 5 Savannah Sparrows in Polk 2 Apr (AF). Early for Wisconsin were Savannah Sparrows in Waukesha 4 Mar (MK), Henslow's Sparrow in Walworth 19 Mar (MN), and Lincoln's Sparrow in Milwaukee 13 Mar (MB). Noteworthy in Michigan were Lark Sparrows in Berrien 2 May (MHY, TB), Iosco 8 May (LC), Emmet 17 May (SFa), and Marquette 24 May (SH), as well as a male Lark Bunting in Allegan 13 May (fide RIB). Minnesota reported Nelson's Sparrows from six counties, while Wisconsin had one in Burnett 22 May (DT) and Michigan had one in Berrien 12 May (MHY, TB). **Golden-crowned Sparrows** were found in St. Louis, MN 19-20 Apr (SMG, PHS), Grant, WI 21-22 Apr (BF), and Keweenaw, MI 6 May (EL). Summer Tanagers were reported in good numbers, with at least 7 birds in Michigan, 11 in Wisconsin, and 4 in Minnesota. The only Western Tanagers came from Minnesota, singles in Blue Earth 14 May (JEB) and Lac Qui Parle 7 May (BJU). A male Blue Grosbeak returned to Cass, MI 11 May+ (JW); one was also found in Milwaukee, WI 8 May (BR). A male Lazuli Bunting frequented Jackson, MN 6-8 May (DBV). Michigan's first Dickcissels arrived in Berrien 20 May (KM), what was to be the start of the state's most im-

pressive influx!

A Great-tailed Grackle in Waseca 31 Mar (D&BM) provided a first county record; Minnesota also had reports from Lac Qui Parle and Yellow Medicine. Whitefish Pt. on the Upper Peninsula had hundreds of Pine Grosbeaks 17-18 Mar (CRi) and 590 Common Redpolls 19 Apr (KB). Moderate numbers of Pine Siskins and small numbers of White-winged Crossbills were spread across the Lower Peninsula. Up to 5 juv. Red Crossbills in Wayne, MI 6-13 Mar (WP) were unexpected. Wisconsin reported few Pine Grosbeaks and a moderate Common Redpoll incursion; Red Crossbills were widespread, but White-wingeds were apparently absent from a good part of w. Wisconsin. Minnesota had Pine Grosbeak reports from five n. counties, with the last report on 31 Mar. White-winged Crossbills seemed to be clumped in the ne. or sw. portions of Minnesota, and Common Redpolls were noted in 40 counties, with a peak of 410 in Hubbard 5 Mar (MAW) and last report on 8 Apr in Hennepin. Minnesota had 10 Hoary Redpolls in 10 counties, including s. reports from Blue Earth 6 Mar (CH) and Anoka 7 Mar (D&PG). Wisconsin had 4 Hoary Redpolls in three counties, while in Michigan, southerly reports came from Saginaw 4 Mar (SG) and Kalamazoo 11 Mar (WW). A Eurasian Tree Sparrow briefly visited the feeders at Whitefish Pt. 23 May (KB).

Contributors (subregional editors in boldface): Judi Ackerman, Nick Anich, Tim Baerwald, Patrick Baize, Sean Bachman (SBA), Steve Baker, Karl Bardon, David A. Bartkey, Ian Batterman, Dedrick Benz, Andrew Birch, Bill Blackburn, Milt J. Blomberg (MJB), Tom F. Boevers (TFB), Jerry E. Bonkoski (JEB), Marilyn Bontly, Ryan Brady (RBR), John Breneman, Matthew Britzner-Stull (MBS), Rick Brigham (RiB), Conny M. Brunell, **Paul E. Budde** (PEB), Jeff Buecking, Robert Butson, Adam M. Byrne (AMB), Lynda Camburn, Vince Cavalieri, Daryl Christenson, Clay Christensen, Steve Christenson, Philip C. Chu, Bruce Cohen, Nathan Crawford, Alex Cruz, Noel Cutright (NCu), Paul Cypher, Zachary DeBruine, Joseph Devereaux, Herb H. Dingmann, David Dister, Louie Dombroski, Bruce Edmonson, Roger Eriksson, Ronald A. Erpelding (RAE), Monica Essenmacher, Bruce A. Fall (BAF), Susan Fawcett (SFa), Peter Fissel, Sean Fitzgerald, Andy Forbes, Beth Fortner, James Fox (JFo), Jason Franck, Nate Fuller,



This adult Golden-crowned Sparrow visited a feeder in Grant County, Wisconsin 21-22 April 2012; it was found dead on the second day. Photograph by Beth Fortner.

Steve Gasser, Frank Gosiak, Jayne Gulbrand, Dan Graham, Dan & Pam Guynn (D&PG), Skye Haas, Chuck Hagner (CHA), Chad Heins, Don & Robyn Henise (DRH), John W. Hockema (JWH), Mark Hodgson, Aaron Holschbach, Bob Hotaling, Eric Howe, Judith Huf, Heidi Hughes, Matt Hysell, Robert B. Janssen, Paul E. Jantscher, Barbara Kellerman, Ted Keyel, Doug W. Kieser, Mark Korducki, Jan & Larry Kraemer, Andrew Krenz, Ken Larson, Erin Lehnert, James W. Lind, Bill Litkey, Steven Lubahn, Craig R. Mandel (CRM), Carl Manning, Dennis & Barbara Martin (D&BM), Myles McNally, Scott B. Meyer (SBM), Steve P. Millard (SPM), Stephen Monson Geerts (SMG), Brad Murphy, David F. Neitzel, Peter Nichols, Frank J. Nicoletti, Marietta Nowak, Andrew Nyhus, Marie Ostrander, James L. Otto (JLO), Karl Overman, Jeremy Overway (JOv), Andy Paulios, Walter Pawloski, Rob Pendergast, Jesse Peterson, David Pettee, Heidi Pinkerton, Tom Prestby, Caleb Putnam, **Jack Reinoehl**, Cory Ritter (CRi), Holly Robertson, Chuck Roethe, Brian Russart, Jason St. Pierre (JSt), **Joe Schaufenbuel**, James Schultz (JSc), Carl Schwartz, Mike Sefton (MSe), Al Sheldon, Brian T. Smith, Tom Steele, Matt Stephenson, Karen Stubenvoll, Aaron Stutz (ASt), Peder H. Svingen, Daryl Tessen, Steve Thiessen, Joel Trick, Bill J. Unzen, Curt Vacek, Jim VanAllen (JVA), Tonissa VerHaagh, Skyler Vold, Don & Bonnie Vrchota, Mike Wanger, Marlene A. Weber (MAW), Scott Weberpal, Warren Whaley, Myles Willard (MWI), Evelyn Wood, Jonathan Wuepper, Quentin Yoderger, Jerry Ziarno. 📷

Adam M. Byrne, 11771 Rachel Lane,
DeWitt, Michigan 48820, (byrnea@msu.edu)

Iowa & Missouri



Joshua P. Uffman

The 2012 spring season was one for the record books. New record arrival dates were established for no fewer than 11 species in Missouri and 10 species in Iowa, with numerous records tying the first, second, and third earliest dates ever reported. Regionally, the precipitation totals were about average by the end of March, but the record warm temperatures were the highlight. In Iowa, temperatures averaged 30° F above normal in mid-March, while Missouri ended the month 10° above the monthly average. The heat continued into April, with 93° recorded at Sioux City on the first of the month. Vegetation across the Region grew three to four weeks ahead of schedule. Unfortunately, freezing in Iowa 10-11 April destroyed the emerging vegetation. It was also during April that observers noticed how quickly some species were arriving and departing their locales. This constant flow of warm air frustrated many Missouri birders, as the peak of the warbler migration never seemed to arrive. However, in Iowa at least one influx of passerines was apparent on the morning of 2 May. By the end of May, precipitation amounts were up to 6 cm below average for the Region.

Temperatures averaged 5° above normal for May in Missouri, and it was the fourteenth warmest May for Iowa.

Notable species in Iowa included Mottled Duck, Neotropical Cormorant, Glossy Ibis, Curlew Sandpiper, California Gull, Burrowing Owl, Green-tailed Towhee, and a lingering Bullock's Oriole. In Missouri, Barnacle Goose, Brown Pelican, Rufous Hummingbird, Say's Phoebe, and Lark Bunting were most noteworthy.

Abbreviations: C.B.C.A. (Columbia Bottom C.A., St. Louis, MO); D.C.C.A. (Duck Creek C.A., Bollinger/Stoddard/Wayne, MO); E.B.C.A. (Eagle Bluffs C.A., Boone, MO); Forney (Forney L., Fremont, IA); Hawkeye (Hawkeye W.A., Johnson, IA); Jester (Jester Park, Polk); M.A.P. (MidAmerican Ponds, Pottawattamie); M.N.W.R. (Mingo N.W.R., Stoddard/Wayne, MO); N.S.R. (Neal Smith N.W.R., Jasper); O.S.C.A. (Otter Slough C.A., Stoddard, MO); R.M.B.S. (Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles, MO); Riverton (Riverton W.A., Fremont, IA); S.L.R. (Swan Lake N.W.R., Chariton, MO); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., Holt, MO); Saylorville (Saylorville Res., Polk, IA); T.G.P. (Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City, MO); W.A. (Wildlife Area).

WATERFOWL

Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were in Buchanan, MO 25-28 May, found by Mr. & Mrs. Calhoun (ph. MT). The most impressive geese counts were from sw. Iowa. At the start of the season, Rapp Park, Page held 12,000 Greater White-fronted, 80,000 Snows, and 10,000 Ross's Geese (KDy), and Riverton held another 20,000 Greater White-fronted and a remarkable 750,000 Snow Geese (KDy). On 10 May, a flock of 100 Greater White-fronted Geese remained at Cardinal Marsh, Winneshiek, IA (DC). Cackling Geese numbered 362 at Saylorville 2 Mar (SJD), and singles were tardy at two Iowa and one Missouri site through 18 May. A Barnacle Goose of unknown provenance was an unusual find in Jackson, MO

29-31 Mar (†EW). The only Trumpeter Swans were reported were 32 in Iowa 3 Mar (SJD), 18 in Tama 6 Mar (DGE), and 25-30 in Kossuth, IA, respectively, spanning 11 Apr-10 May (TSK). Tundra Swans were at three sites in e.-cen. Iowa 10-11 Mar. Birders in Iowa were treated to a pair of **Mottled Ducks** at Forney 28-29 Mar (†Ross Silcock, †Loren Padelford) and a single at New Lake, Woodbury 14 Apr (†BFH). An estimated 8600 Gadwalls were in Clay, IA 15 Mar (LAS). Mallards peaked in Iowa with 35,000 at Riverton 5 Mar (KDy). Single Cinnamon Teal visited five w. Iowa counties 10 Mar-24 Apr, and another was far e. in Scott, IA 15-16 Mar (JF, CRE). In Missouri, at least one was at S.C.R. 15 Mar-28 May, with 3 drakes there 5 Apr (ph. DW), plus singles at E.B.C.A 12 Mar (KA, Laura Pintel) and S.L.R. 15 May (SK, LL). Northern Pintails peaked in Iowa the first week of Mar, with 3500 at Saylorville (BE) and 12,000 at Riverton (KDy). Some 1868 Green-winged Teal were in Kossuth, IA 29 Mar (TSK).

Surprisingly few Canvasbacks were recorded in the Region this spring, and the highest counts were from Missouri 3 Mar, with at least 100 in Linn (SK, m.ob.) and another 241 at O.S.C.A. (CBa). Redheads peaked at 250 at S.C.R. 4 Mar (JBo), with only a few singles observed throughout the period at one Missouri and two Iowa sites. A male Greater Scaup at E.B.C.A. 20-25 May constituted a record-late departure date (ph., †RD, NM, KA). In Iowa, Lesser Scaup peaked at 6000 at Saylorville 11 Mar (BE). Single Surf Scoters were at Saylorville 18 Apr (DTh, JG, SJD) and Red Rock Res., Marion, IA 21 Apr (JG). A White-winged Scoter was at R.M.B.S. 18 Mar (AS). Long-tailed Ducks visited each state: a female in Lee, IA 11 Mar (TMH) and a single at R.M.B.S. through 7 Apr (CM, m.ob.), with 2 there 17-18 Mar (CM, AS). Common Mergansers peaked at 2250 in Polk, IA the first week of Mar (BE). Lingered Red-breasted Mergansers included up to 7 at two Missouri sites through 18 May and single females at two Iowa sites through 22 May.

GROUSE THROUGH RAPTORS

Four Greater Prairie-Chickens were noted at the Keilerton lek, Ringgold, IA 31 Mar (DTh), and a lone individual was at Taberville Prairie C.A., St. Clair, MO 25 May (CBu). In cen. Iowa, Gray Partridge were found s. to Boone (WO) and Story (Hank Zalatel). Iowa recorded up to 6 Common Loons in 11 counties 20 Mar-25 May, including a first for N.S.R. 3 Apr (KVS). In Missouri, singles lingered in Camden 5 May (MH, Greg Stoner) and Thousand Hills S.P., Adair 20-28 May (PK). Pied-billed Grebes peaked in Iowa 15 Apr, with 87 in Story (WO) and 400 in Carroll (SB). A Red-necked Grebe was an unexpected find at D.C.C.A. 8-9 Apr



This Curlew Sandpiper (right) visited Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson County, Iowa 24-25 (here 25) May 2012. Photograph by Jim Forde.

(ph. CBa, Bruce Beck). In Iowa, one at Saylorville 28 Apr (JG, AB, POR, JB, SJD) and one at Ada Hayden Park, Story 30 Apr (SJD, JJD, WO) might have been the same bird; another was on the Mississippi R. at Dubuque 15 May (DS). In Iowa, the first Eared Grebe arrived at Saylorville 20 Mar (RIA), Apr high counts included 7-17 at three sites, and the last 2 were in Cedar 31 May (WMZ). In e. Missouri, a single was at R.M.B.S. 21 Apr (ph. JM, CM), and 3 were there 30 Apr (Chrissy McClarren, MP). Single Western Grebes were at Saylorville 18 Apr and 10 & 18 May (DTh, SJD, JB), 2 were in Pottawattamie, IA 22 Apr (JJD), and 3 in Cherokee, IA 29 Apr made a first county record (Dick Bierman).

Multiple **Neotropic Cormorants** arrived in sw. Iowa at Forney 1 Apr (†KDy), where singles continued the rest of the month (DTh, JLF); and single subads. were at Saylorville 26 Apr (†SJD) and 25 May (†AB). Missouri's 11th **Brown Pelican** was at Binder Lake S.P., Cole beginning 29 May (Richard George; ph., †RD; ph., †NM; ph., †KA). Iowa's 2nd earliest Great Egret arrived at Riverton 8 Mar (ph. KDy), and 1-2 Snowy Egrets were scattered across nine Iowa counties beginning 17 Apr. An early Little Blue Heron was observed in Jasper, MO 19 Mar (LHe). In Iowa, 3 were at Saylorville 6 May (SJD), and another was at Forney 5-25 May (KDy, KVS). Forney was visited by 10 Black-crowned Night-Herons 29 May (KDy) and a single Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 9 Apr (KDy). One to 2 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found at three other Iowa sites 30 Apr–28 May, and 8 along Shoal Cr., Newton, MO furnished the season high count in mid-May (JC, Randy Hass, Cyndi Cogbill). Three **Glossy Ibis** were documented in the Region: Mills, IA 10 & 12 Apr (†KDy, †PHA, ph. RIA); Crane Creek, Black Hawk, IA 8 May (†TGS); and E.B.C.A. 12 May (ph. BJ). In Iowa, the first 6 White-faced Ibis were with the Glossy in Mills 10 Apr (KDy), where up to 19 were observed through 25 May (KDy). In nw. Missouri, 41 at S.C.R. 28 Apr made the highest count (DW); the last was noted there 27 May (MT, MR). Other high counts included 15 at D.C.C.A. 20 Apr (Matt Bowyer, *fide* CBa) and 17 Glossy/White-faced at R.M.B.S. 14 Apr, of which 3 were confidently identified as White-faced (JM, CM).

In Missouri, single Black Vultures made it as far n. as St. Louis 20 Apr (Cathy Spahn) and Boone 21 Apr (RD). The Region's highest count of 295 Bald Eagles was at Saylorville 2 Mar (SJD). Mississippi Kite high counts included 19 at M.N.W.R. 11 May (CBa) and 8 in St. Louis,



A Dunlin flock estimated at 7000 birds was found in Dunklin County, Missouri 13 May 2012, perhaps half of them visible in this image. Photograph by Tim Jones.

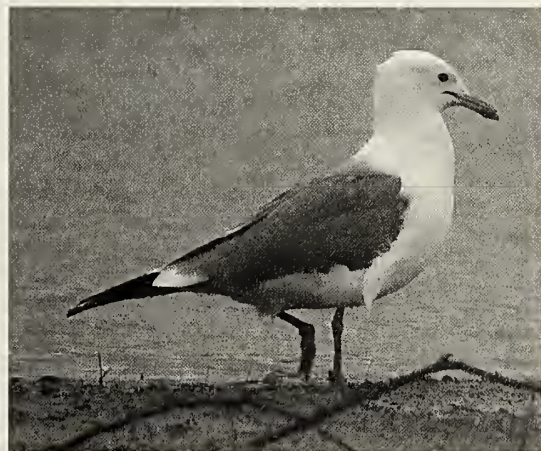
MO 30 May (MT). The farthest n. were those in Iowa, at the usual Wapello and Polk locations, and one in Clay, MO 19 May (Kristi Mayo) was the northwesternmost. A mini-invasion occurred 15-28 May in Boone, MO, with a high of 7 at one site and 1-2 at three other sites (RD). A Northern Harrier was in Palo Alto, IA 28 May (BT) and a male in Vernon, MO 22 May (LHe). Two Northern Goshawks were recorded: an ad. in Mississippi, MO 21 Mar (MH) and one in Lee, IA 26 Mar (JWR, JLF). The earliest observation of Swainson's Hawks was 3 in Pottawattamie, IA 9 Apr (JT). Singles were noted in six other w. Iowa counties through 6 May, and a group of 7 was in Mills, IA 1 May (KDy). The last Rough-legged Hawks observed were 7 in Clarke, IA 10 Mar (JG). Iowa Golden Eagles included an ad. and an imm. in O'Brien 3 Mar (LAS), plus singles in Polk and four other e. counties 10-17 Mar. The last 2 Merlins in Missouri were in St. Charles 29 Apr (BR), and Iowa's last was in Black Hawk 3 May (TGS).

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

The only King Rail reported was in Livingston, MO 13 May (SK), and 8 Virginia Rails was the high count in Boone, MO 12 May (PMc, m.ob.). Early Soras were recorded at O.S.C.A. 17 Mar (CBa) and in Johnson, IA 28 Mar (JH). Common Gallinules were first noted at S.C.R. 28 Apr (JPU, MP) and Riverton 30 Apr (JLF); up to 3 were at M.N.W.R. 11 May (CBa) and at Nellen Marsh, Mills, IA 30 May (KDy). Missouri Sandhill Cranes included one in St. Louis 14 May (ph. Christian Hagenlocher), 2 in Buchanan 26 Apr (JHi), a potentially breeding pair at S.C.R. through at least 27 May (MT, MR), and 3 throughout the period at E.B.C.A. Peak counts in Iowa included 16-39 at three e. Iowa locales 14 Apr–23 May, with nesting reports extending in w. Iowa from Winnebago (LSR) to Hamilton (SJD).

Two American Golden-Plovers in Perry, MO 3 Mar (JPU, MP, MM) were the 2nd earliest, while 3 at Hawkeye

14 Mar (JF) tied for 2nd earliest in Iowa. The highest counts included about 4000 across two sw. Missouri sites 3-5 Apr (Becky Wylie, JC). Semipalmated Plovers peaked at 150 at Hawkeye in mid-May (JF) and then 120 in Cerro Gordo, IA 30 May (PH). Single Piping Plovers arrived in the Region 12-13 Apr at one Missouri (JHi) and two Iowa sites (SJD); a high count of 4 was at M.A.P. throughout the period, and a late migrant arrived in Polk 28 May (JG). An early count of 319 Killdeer at Hawkeye 3 Mar (SJD) was exceptional for this date. Record-early arrival dates for Black-necked Stilts were logged for the 3rd consecutive year in se. Missouri, with 4 in Dunklin 14 Mar (TJo). In Iowa, 2 were at Hawkeye 29 Apr (JH), where one remained 1 May (JF), and 1-3 were at four other s. Iowa sites through 20 May. Two record-early American Avocets were observed at E.B.C.A. 20 Mar (GC, PK). Counts of 10-25 occurred in six Iowa counties and four scattered Missouri sites through 22 May, while the last in each state was 29 May: 2 in Polk, MO (GSw, CBU) and 8 at M.A.P. (DTh). A Spotted Sandpiper at M.A.P. 5 Apr (RIA) was the 2nd earliest for Iowa, while a Solitary Sandpiper at C.B.C.A. 24-31 Mar (JPU, BR) was the 2nd earliest for Missouri. A Greater Yellowlegs at Saylorville 2 Mar (SJD) provided a record arrival date for Iowa. The largest num-



This adult California Gull was one of two present at Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson County, Iowa on the final day of the spring season, 31 May 2012. Photograph by Jim Forde.



This Say's Phoebe, Missouri's eleventh, was viewed by many birders at Capital View Access, Cole County, Missouri 17 (here 30) March through 1 April 2012. Photograph by Peter Kondrashov.

ber of Willets was in Iowa, with 10-22 at six sites 14 Apr–5 May, with the last at Hawkeye 25 May (KVS, JF). About 2080 Lesser Yellowlegs were at E.B.C.A. 12 May (RD, BJ, PMc). An Upland Sandpiper in Ringgold 31 Mar (DTh) was the 2nd earliest Iowa record. A Whimbrel was in Polk, IA 14 May (SJD), and up to 4 were at E.B.C.A. 20 (ph. RD, ph. PK) & 24 May (EW). Iowa's 2nd earliest Hudsonian Godwit arrived in Greene 1 Apr (SJD). High counts included 14-28 at two w. Iowa and two n. Missouri locations 14 Apr–17 May, with the latest record involving 3 birds at Hawkeye 31 May (JF). The first 5 Marbled Godwits were recorded following the passage of a cold front at R.M.B.S. 14 Apr (CM, JM, m.ob.). Other reports included up to 9 birds in 11 Iowa counties and up to 2 at two nw. Missouri sites through 21 May. Ruddy Turnstones made an excellent showing across Iowa beginning with 2 in Story 30 Apr, the 3rd earliest record for the state (Michael Meetz). Up to 7 were at eight Iowa sites from Dubuque to Carroll 11-27 May; on 28 May, 10 were at Hawkeye (JF, DP) and 15 in Palo Alto (LAS). A Red Knot at S.L.R. 14-18 May (SK) was the first in a few springs for Missouri. In Iowa, Sanderlings arrived 12 May, with up to 6 at Saylorville through 28 May (AB, RLC, JG) and another 2-3 at four other sites. A late push of shorebirds at Ventura Marsh, Cerro Gordo, IA 30 May included 1080 Semipalmated, 3700 Least, 180 White-rumped, and 600 Pectoral Sandpipers, plus 180 Lesser Yellowlegs (PH).

One to 2 Western Sandpipers were at E.B.C.A. 21-22 Apr (ph. Chris Corben, RD); another was at S.C.R. 15 May (MR, JBo, JK). In Holt, MO, 14,000 Pectoral 16 May and 950 White-rumped Sandpipers 18 May made the peak counts for those species (DE, m.ob.). A Dunlin at O.S.C.A. 3 Mar was early (CBa), and an estimated 7000 were in Dunklin, MO 13 May (ph. TJo). An impressive 900 Wilson's Snipe were counted in Dunklin, MO 3 Mar (TJo). A Curlew Sandpiper at Hawkeye 24-25 May (†JF, †CRE, †MHB) was a highlight for Iowa birders. At O.S.C.A., 1000 Long-billed Dowitchers 3 Mar increased to more than 3000 on 15 Apr (CBa). Peak Wilson's Phalarope counts included 20-39 at three Iowa sites 28-30 Apr. Two Red-necked Phalaropes in Missouri at E.B.C.A. 29 Apr (†RD) and R.M.B.S. 1 May (ph., †JPU) provided early arrival records. Four in Woodbury, IA 12 May (POR) was the season high count, and singles visited three other Iowa and one Missouri site through 30 May.

A single Laughing Gull was in Dunklin, MO 6 May (ph. TJo), and 1-2 were at R.M.B.S. 11-23 May (ph. MP, JPU, m.ob.). A Franklin's Gull was early at Saylorville 4 Mar (BE) and peaked at 233 there 5 May (SJD). Other peak counts included 400 in Pottawattamie, IA 16 Apr (BG) and 180 at S.C.R. 25 Apr (DW). Two California Gulls were a surprise at Hawkeye 31 May (†JF). Through 15 Mar, Lock and Dams 14 & 15, Scott, IA hosted: 3 first-cycle Thayer's Gulls (JF, DP), 2 Iceland Gulls (†JF), one or 2 first- and second-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gulls (JF, DP, MRe), and a first-cycle Glaucous Gull (JF, DP). Away from this location, only a single first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull in Lee, IA 6 & 10 Mar was recorded (CF). Nesting Least Terns in Iowa included up to 8 at M.A.P. starting 22 May (JLF, DTh, POR) and 2 in Woodbury 26 May (POR). In Missouri, 11 were in New Madrid and Mississippi 28 May (JPU, MP), and at least 3 were at R.M.B.S. starting 18 May (JPU, MP, PL). Single migrants were observed at Saylorville 28 May (JG, AB), and scattered observations were reported at four Missouri sites 25-29 May. Roosting Caspian Terns numbered 240 at Saylorville 9 May (DTh). Black Terns peaked at 220 at Forney 25 May (KDy), with possible nesting involving 20 birds in Winnebago 27 May (JB) and 32 in Cerro Gordo 30 May (DS). A Forster's Tern at S.C.R. 23 Mar (ph. DW) constituted a new arrival record for Missouri.

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

White-winged Doves were found at two w. Iowa locations: a pair in Page 15 Mar (KDy, JLF) and a single in Plymouth 21-23 Mar (TLu, GLV, POR). In Missouri, an early Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in Cape Girardeau 22 Apr (CBa, m.ob.). Black-billed Cuckoo singles were at

two Missouri and two Iowa sites beginning in Black Hawk, IA 3 May (TGS). Missouri Greater Roadrunners included 1-2 at two Greene, MO sites beginning 6 Apr and singles at three other sw. locations through 10 May. The most unexpected was one in Cole, MO 10-21 Apr (ph. JM, CM, Tony Elliott). A window-killed Barn Owl was discovered in Winnebago, IA 9 May (LSR, SJD, CJF); in Missouri, 2 were in Greene 3 Mar (Dorothy Thurman, Kathy Cowens), and 2 ads. with 5 fledglings were in Cape Girardeau 6 Apr (CBa). The Snowy Owl invasion of 2011-2012 came to an end 10 Mar, when the last of 5 individuals in w. Iowa and one in sw. Missouri left the Region. In Iowa, an unexpected Burrowing Owl delighted birders in Hamilton 24-25 Mar (†JE, †POR). One to 4 Long-eared Owls were at four Iowa sites through 2 Apr. In Missouri, a Short-eared Owl was late in Livingston 26 Apr (SK), and a possible breeding pair was in Barton 3 & 26 May (JC). Iowa Northern Saw-whet Owls included one in Ida 10 Mar (LH) and another at Red Rock Res., Marion 11 Mar (JS). Iowa Chuck-wills'-widows returned to their regular locations in Lucas (KDy, JLF) and Fremont (KDy). In n. Missouri, 3 were in Holt 18 May (DE), and up to 4 were in Adair beginning 4 May (ph. FC, ph. PK). A record-early arrival date for Eastern Whip-poor-will was established in Clarke, IA 5 Apr (Steve Harvey). In Missouri, a record-early arrival date for Ruby-throated Hummingbird was reported in Cape Girardeau 30 Mar (MH), and an overwintering male Rufous Hummingbird was in Christian through 19 Mar (Sarah Driver, *fide* GSA).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in Hancock, IA (DS) and Woodbury (GLV), IA, both 29 May, possibly involved nesting birds. The highest count of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was of 4 in Marshall, IA 26 May (MPr). Ten Alder Flycatchers were still at Smith W.A., Kossuth, IA 30 May (MCK). A single late Least Flycatcher was observed in Kossuth, IA 31 May (MCK). Missouri's 11th Say's Phoebe was in Cole 17 Mar–1 Apr (†Bill Clark, ph. PK, †KA, †EW, m.ob.). A Western Kingbird provided a new arrival date for Iowa in Pottawattamie 14 Apr (JG), while in Missouri the first in Dunklin 27 Apr (Vic Moss, *fide* CBa) was unusually far east. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers continued to expand their range northward and eastward. The first in n.-cen. Missouri arrived in Grundy 26 Mar (Diane Kinder), and singles were in Johnson 16-17 Apr (JF, CRE), Kossuth 29 Apr (TSk, EG), and Hancock, IA 20 May (ph. BaE). Loggerhead Shrikes still persist in s. Missouri, with 17 birds at 14 sites 5 Mar–28 May. Farther n., 2 were in Harrison, MO 16 May (TN), and singles were recorded in six Iowa counties. Seven Northern Shrikes were noted in seven Iowa counties, with the last at Saylorville 21 Mar (AB). In Mis-

souri, singles were in *Nodaway* 2 Mar (Kirby Goslee) and in *St. Charles* through 10 Mar (ph. JM; ph., †Shawn Clubb). Record-early arrival dates in Missouri were documented for White-eyed Vireo in *Mississippi* 21 Mar (†MH), Yellow-throated Vireo in *St. Louis* 28 Mar (CM), and single Warbling Vireos at three e. sites 6 Apr. In Iowa, a Warbling Vireo in *Polk* 19 Apr (JB) tied for 2nd earliest. Black-billed Magpies were only reported from their known nesting ground in Broken Kettle Grasslands, *Plymouth*, IA (TLu, GLV). A Tree Swallow in *Tama* 11 Mar (TGS) tied for Iowa's 2nd earliest. Two Cliff Swallows at E.B.C.A. 23 Mar (ph. RD, JPU) were the earliest in about 50 years. Few Red-breasted Nuthatches were in the Region; Iowa's last was in *Black Hawk* 13 Mar (DGE), and singles were noted at two separate Missouri sites in Mar.

Iowa's dependable Bewick's Wren returned to *Lee* 12 Apr (CF), and singing males were at two separate *Washington*, MO locales 21 Apr (JPU) and one *Boone* site 12 May+ (PMc). In Iowa, record-early arrival dates were established for House Wrens in *Polk* 26 Mar (DTh) and *Clayton* 6 Apr (TMH). Two Sedge Wrens at Errington Marsh, *Polk* 22 Apr (AB) were the 2nd earliest. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in *Des Moines*, IA 4 Apr was the earliest ever recorded (JWR), and Iowa's 2nd earliest Ruby-crowned Kinglet was in *Black Hawk* 20 Mar (TSS). Eight Veeries at Holst S.E., *Boone*, IA 26 May (JS) included possible nesting birds. In *Algonia*, *Kossuth* a huge nocturnal flight 2 May included Swainson's Thrushes being heard at a rate of more than 15/minute and an estimated 100 Gray-cheeked Thrush calls in the mix (MCK). Twelve Gray-cheeked and 40 Swainson's Thrushes were at Swan Lake S.P., *Carroll*, IA 7 May (RIA), the high count for both species (excluding nocturnal migrants). A Gray Catbird in *Polk* 12 Apr (SJD) was Iowa's 2nd earliest. There were few noteworthy records of American Pipit in the Region except the flock of 100 in *Story*, IA 21 Apr (SJD). The only Lapland Longspurs reported were 100 in *Buena Vista*, IA 3 Mar (TJ) and another 200 in *Story*, IA 5 Apr (SJD). Missouri's only Smith's Longspurs consisted of 12 in *Linn* 17 Mar (SK). The species was more numerous in Iowa, with up to 40 at five s. sites beginning 13 Mar in *Johnson* (JF); the largest flocks included 300 at *Jester* 22 Mar (SJD) and 100 at N.S.R. through 4 Apr (KVS).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

In Iowa, 28 species of warblers had been recorded by 2 May, an incredible total for so early in the season. Three Worm-eating Warblers in *Washington* 17 Apr (JPU) tied the earliest Missouri record. Louisiana Waterthrushes observed in se. Iowa in the period 21-26 Mar established new first, 2nd, and 3rd earliest

arrival dates. Rare in n. Missouri, single Blue-winged Warblers were at two *Livingston* sites 1 May (SK). In Iowa, singles were in four e. Iowa counties 28 Apr-3 May, and 10 were in the ne. at *Allamakee* by 10 May (MPR). On 31 Mar, 52 Black-and-white Warblers in *Christian*, MO was an incredibly high total given the early date (DB), while a Prothonotary Warbler in *Stoddard*, MO (CBa) tied the earliest record. The first Swainson's Warblers arrived in s. Missouri beginning 5 May, with 1-2 at two *Shannon* sites (ph. GC) and 2 at *Roaring River S.P.*, *Barry* (ph. Jerry Williams, m.ob.). Tennessee Warblers peaked at 150 in Iowa at *Ledges S.P.*, *Boone* 10 May (SJD). A record-early arrival date was established for Orange-crowned Warbler in *Polk*, IA 3 Apr (RIA). In e.-cen. Missouri, up to 4 were at nine sites 1 Mar-3 May. Nashville Warblers in *St. Louis* 5 Apr (JPU, Chris Brown) and C.B.C.A. 7 Apr (JPU) established new arrival dates for Missouri. The only Missouri Connecticut Warbler was banded in *St. Louis* 17 May (PL), while 11 were reported from five Iowa counties 12-26 May. In Iowa, the 2nd earliest Mourning Warbler ever recorded arrived in *Polk* 2 May (RIA); the latest date of 26 May included reports as far w. as *Clay* (LAS) and *Carroll* (RES), plus a high of 4 in *Boone* (JS). Single Common Yellowthroats constituted early arrival records in Iowa at *Jefferson* 17 Apr (DCP) and *Greene* 20 Apr (KVS). Iowa Hooded Warblers included possible nesting birds at two sw. Iowa locales 28 Apr-20 May and a single bird in n. Iowa at Holst S.E., *Boone* 26 May (JS). In Missouri, up to 3 were at *Castlewood S.P.*, *St. Louis* starting 17 Apr (CM, m.ob.), and the northernmost was in *Adair* 18 May (PK). An ad. male American Redstart furnished the 2nd earliest Missouri record in *Franklin* 17 Apr (ph. JPU). Across Iowa, Yellow-rumped Warbler counts of 25-55 spanned the period 19 Apr-4 May. Cape May Warblers arrived in *Story*, IA 2 May (SSP), and single birds were reported from 10 additional e. Iowa counties, the usual *St. Louis*, MO sites, and *Callaway*, MO through 19 May. The high count was 3 at *Woodbury*, IA 6 May (TLu) and E.B.C.A. 10-15 May (m.ob.). The first Cerulean Warbler arrived early in *Cape Girardeau*, MO 14 Apr (MH). High counts in the Region included 12 Ceruleans in *Shannon*, MO 20 Apr (PMc), 10 in *Barry*, MO 28 Apr (Jerry Williams), and up to 22 in *Allamakee*, IA (POR, MPR). The first 3 Northern Parulas to arrive in Iowa 21 Mar-4 Apr established new record spring arrival dates. Bay-breasted Warblers peaked at 5 at *Parker's Woods*, *Cerro Gordo*, IA 5 May (RGo), and other Iowa singles were noted at *Carroll* 7 May (RIA) and *Woodbury* (GLV) IA 7 May. One to 2 Blackburnian Warblers were in 10 Iowa counties 2-25 May, with the westernmost at *Desoto N.W.R.*, *Harrison*, IA

6 May (JT). Several Iowa birders observed territorial Pine Warblers at the *Donnellson Unit*, *Lee* beginning 24 Mar (CF); another was at *Jester* 15 May (ph. SJD). In n.-cen. Missouri, the species is apparently well established at *Thousand Hills SP*, *Adair*, with several pairs present (PK). A Yellow-throated Warbler in *St. Louis* 17 Mar (CM) made a record-early arrival date for the species in Missouri, as did 3 in *Van Buren*, IA 21 Mar (JWR); a bird observed at *Ledges S.P.*, *Boone* 29 Mar (SJD) was 2nd earliest for Iowa. A Prairie Warbler in nw. *Livingston* 1 May (SK) constituted one of fewer than 15 records in n. Missouri. A Black-throated Green Warbler in *Washington* 28 Mar (LM) was Missouri's 2nd earliest. A Yellow-breasted Chat in *Stoddard* 16 Apr (ph. CBa) established a new arrival record for the species in Missouri, while one in *Lee* 25 Apr (CF) was Iowa's 2nd earliest.

An unexpected **Green-tailed Towhee** was in *Boone*, IA 17 May (ph. John & Joyce Bahrenfus). Single Spotted Towhees were at one Missouri and two Iowa sites through 25 Apr, and 2 were at *Riverton* 4 Mar (KDY). A Clay-colored Sparrow in *Polk* 2 Apr (DAk) was the earliest ever recorded for Iowa. Single birds were observed at three e. Missouri sites 27 Apr-1 May, and the largest number recorded for the Region this spring was 10 in *Page*, IA 28 Apr (KDY). Territorial birds were noted at three nw. Iowa sites 30 May. Two Lark Sparrows tied for 2nd earliest at two sw. Iowa sites 10 Apr. A male **Lark Bunting** was a nice find at *Taberville Prairie C.A.*, *St. Clair*, MO 1 Apr (ph., †Craig Hensley, Jenna Rhoades). The only Nelson's Sparrow observed was at *Harrier Marsh*, *Boone*, IA 12 May (WO). The first migrant Fox Sparrows were noted 2-4 Mar in s. Iowa (DCP, KDy). Iowa's 2nd earliest Lincoln's Sparrow was in *Linn* 25 Mar (BSc).

Male Summer Tanagers tied for the 2nd earliest record at two s. Missouri sites 16 Apr, while the next day a male Scarlet Tanager in *Franklin*, MO tied the earliest record (JPU). In Iowa, nesting Summer Tanagers occurred as far n. as *Ledges S.P.*, *Boone* (SJD), and a pair was in *Woodbury* 18 May (GLV). Record-early arrival dates were established for Rose-breasted Grosbeak in *Scott*, IA 17 Apr (Richard Sayles) and for Blue Grosbeak in Missouri at *Sand Prairie C.A.*, *Scott*, MO 22 Apr (CBa). In sw. Missouri, 6 Painted Buntings were in *Taney* 10 May (PMc), and a May survey located six nesting pairs in *Barry* and a singing male in *Newton* (JC). Bobolinks arrived early in Missouri, with 3 in the s. in *Washington* 21 Apr (JPU, Hannah Uffman) and one in the n. at *Harrison* 26 Apr (TN). Yellow-headed Blackbird flocks arrived in w. Iowa 13-14 Apr, with 14 in *Woodbury* (GLV) and 18 at *Nellen Marsh*, *Mills* (JG). In cen. Missouri, 1-3 were regularly seen 29 Apr-31 May at E.B.C.A. (RD, KA, m.ob.), with

17 there 10 May (GC, Thomas Luhning). The easternmost were 3 in *Tama*, IA 25 Apr (JWR) and a male at R.M.B.S. 21 Apr (CM, JM). Rusty Blackbird flocks numbering 50-80 were found in four Iowa counties and in *St. Louis*, MO 1 Mar-7 Apr, while a flock of 400 remained in *Cape Girardeau*, MO through 18 Mar (MH). A high count of 104 Brewer's Blackbirds came from *Dade*, MO 10 Mar (GS, Emily Samuel); up to 26 were in 10 Iowa and two Missouri locales 7 Mar-28 Apr. In Missouri, nesting Great-tailed Grackles were confirmed as far ne. as *Adair* 1 Apr-31 May (FC). In Iowa, reports of up to 14 ranged across the sw. and ne. to Otter Creek Marsh, *Tama* beginning 11 Mar (TGS). A Bull-ock's Oriole documented during the winter season continued in Ottumwa, *Wapello* through 21 Mar (POR).

Four White-winged Crossbills flocks were in Iowa, with up to 60 at three nw. cemeteries, and in the e., 11 were in *Scott* through 14 Mar (MRE). One to 3 Common Redpolls were in six Iowa counties 1-14 Mar. Up to 5 Purple Finches were noted in 10 e. Iowa counties, with the last at Greenbelt L., *Black Hawk* 27 Apr (DGE). Pine Siskins were mostly absent from Missouri except for 1-2 at three sites during Mar and then at two sites through 14 May. In Iowa, 8 in *Sioux City*, *Woodbury* included possible nest-

ing through 28 Apr (Jerry Von Ehwegen), and in *Algona*, *Kossuth*, at least three family groups and one nest were located (MCK). The last reported were 1-2 in four n.-cen. Iowa sites through 27 May.

Contributors (subregional compilers in bold-face): IOWA: Danny Akers (DAK), Pam Allen (PHA), Reid Allen (RIA), Carl Bendorf (CJB), John Bissell (JB), Aaron Brees (AB), Mark Brown (MHB), Stan Buman (SB), Dennis Carter (DC), Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Larry Dau (LGD), James Dinsmore (JJD), Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Keith Dyche (KDy), David Eastman (DGE), Chris R. Edwards (CRE), Jean Eells (JE), Barbara Eekhoff (BaE), Bery Engebretsen (BE), Pete Ernzen (PE), Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), James Forde (JF), Charles R. Fuller (CF), James L. Fuller (JLF), Erich Gilbert (EG), Jacob Gilliam (JG), Rita Goranson (RGo), Ben Griffith (BG), Luther Haige (LH), Tyler M. Harms (TMH), Douglas Harr (DCH), Paul Hertz (PH), James Huntington (JH), Bill Huser (BFH), Tom Johnson (TJ), **Matthew C. Kenne** (MCK), Corey Lange (CJL), Tucker Lutter (TLu), Jacob Newton (JN), Wolfgang Oesterreich (WO), Shane Patterson (SSP), Diana Pesek (DP), Mark Proescholdt (MP), Lisa Ralls (LSR), Mike Resch (MRE), Paul O.

Roisen (POR), John Rutenbeck (JWR), William Scheible (BSc), Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Tom Schilke (TSS), David Shealer (DS), Rachel E. Simmons (RES), Jim Sinclair (JS), Tom Skilling (TSk), Thomas G. Stone (TGS), Dennis Thompson (DTh), Jerry Toll (JT), Bill Tollefson (BT), Karen Viste-Sparkman (KVS), Gerald von Ehwegen (GLV), Walter Zuurdeeg (WMZ). MISSOURI: Kathleen Andersen (KA), Chris Barrigar (CBa), John Bollin (JBo), David Blevins (DB), Charley Burwick (CBu), Jeff Cantrell (JC), Grant Connette (GC), Frankie Cuculich (FC), Ryan Douglas (RD), David Easterla (DE), Kathy Haas (KH), Mark Haas (MH), Lawrence Herbert (LHe), Jack Hilsabeck (JHi), Brad Jacobs (BJ), Tim Jones (TJo), Jon King (JK), Andrew Kinslow (AK), Steve Kinder (SK), Peter Kondrashov (PK), Larry Lade (LL), Pat Lueders (PL), Matt Malin (MM), Charlene Malone (CM), Jim Malone (JM), Nicholas March (NM), Paul McKenzie (PMc), Linda Mills (LM), Thomas Nagel (TN), Mark Paradise (MP), Laura Pintel, Mark Robbins (MR), Bill Rowe (BR), Allen Smith (AS), Greg Samuel (GSa), Greg Swick (GSw), Mike Thelen (MT), **Joshua P. Uffman** (JPU), Edge Wade (EW), Doug Willis (DW). ☘

Joshua P. Uffman, 707 Ashton Way Circle, Eureka, Missouri 63025, (Birdsandbugs@sbcglobal.net)

Tennessee & Kentucky



Chris Sloan
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Weather conditions during spring 2012 were overall very mild but somewhat variable regarding precipitation. In Kentucky, temperatures during March averaged 11-13° F warmer than normal at most stations, with 86° reached at Jackson 20 March and 85° at Bowling Green 20 March and at Louisville 20-21 March. April was slight-

ly warmer than normal across northern and eastern parts of the Region but warmer than normal across the west. May temperatures averaged warmer than normal but were not as abnormally high as during March. Precipitation was lacking throughout the duration of the three-month period, but only slightly so during March in most areas. During April, north-central Kentucky was only slightly dry, but southern and western portions of the state began to suffer from the early stages of a prolonged drought, with Paducah receiving about one third of normal rainfall during the month. May continued to be dry across most of the state, especially in the west, where Paducah received about one half of normal rainfall.

Rarity highlights included two Swallow-tailed Kites, a state-first Ferruginous Hawk, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Nelson's Sparrow, and Painted Bunting in Kentucky; Brown Pelican and Great Black-backed Gull in Tennessee; and White-winged Doves in both states.

With great sadness, we report the passing of Barbara Anne Hart Stedman on 26 May 2012. Barb and her husband, Dr. Stephen J. Stedman, long-time residents of Cookeville, Tennessee, have made countless contributions to our knowledge of birds in Tennessee and Kentucky; in particular, their ornithological studies of the Upper Cumberland region have turned what once was a poorly studied area into one of the most thoroughly documented. Barb began participating bird study in her home state of Florida during the early 1970s and subsequently dedicated her life to collecting, studying, and archiving bird data. She is very much missed, but her contributions will be forever appreciated.

Abbreviations: Blood River (Blood River embayment of Kentucky L., *Calloway*, KY); Ensley (Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex, sw. *Shelby*, TN); John Sevier L. (*Hawkins*, TN); Radnor (Radnor Lake State Natural Area, *Nashville*, TN); Sauerheber (Sauerheber Unit Sloughs W.M.A., *Henderson*, KY); Standifer Gap (Standifer Gap Marsh, *Hamilton*, TN).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks are now firmly established as year-round residents in Shelby, TN; the high count for the period was 52 at Ensley 25 Mar (VR). Single Greater White-fronted Geese lingered at Elizabethton, Carter, TN through 18 Apr (B&JP, TM); at Sauerheber (injured) through May (ph. CC); and at John Sevier L. 30 May–1 Jun (SHu). Reports of Ross's Geese of interest included 2 at Berea, Madison, KY 7 Mar (RF, RBa, ph. AN et al.); one (possibly a hybrid with Snow Goose) in Knox, TN 10 Apr (KB); and one at Frankfort, KY 26–30 Mar (ph. GS), 23–27 Apr (GS, ph. DBa, ph. JBr), and 25 May (GS), these three reports possibly involving the same individual. Single Snow Geese in ne. Tennessee were all very late and appeared uninjured: one at Rankin Bottoms, Cocke, TN 28 Apr (MBS), one at Kingsport, Sullivan, TN 10–17 May (RP), and one in Hawkins, TN 15–16 May (SP). Single Cackling Geese in Unicoi, TN 15 Mar (JMcG) and Carter, TN 18 Mar (Rbi, TM) were late.

Tardy ducks included an American Black Duck in w. Henderson, KY 24 May (ph. CC); a Gadwall and a Bufflehead on L. Barkley, Lyon, KY 16 May (JSo); 3 Blue-winged Teal at Blood River through 30 May (HC); 2 Northern Shovelers at Sauerheber through 21 May (CC), with one there through 27 May (ph. CC); a male Redhead at John Sevier L. 7–12 May (SHu); a Redhead at Chester Frost Park, Hamilton, TN 12 May (DJ); 5 Greater Scaup at Rankin Bottoms, Cocke, TN 5 May (KB), with one there 26 May (MBS); a Ring-necked Duck in Hamilton, TN 12 May+ (KAC); a female Bufflehead at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, Anderson, TN 3 May (KW, KB); single Red-breasted Mergansers at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, Anderson, TN 14 May (RHf, DM) and at Warrior's Path S.P., Sullivan, TN 15 May (GE); and a Ruddy Duck at John Sevier L. 7 May (SHu). Hooded Mergansers are rare breeders away from the w. portion of the Region, so a female with 8 young at Joachim Bible Refuge Unit, Lick Creek Bottoms W.M.A., Greene, TN 8 Apr (DMi) was a surprise. Two Hooded Mergansers in Sullivan, TN 20 May (WCo) were also late for e. Tennessee. Broods of Hooded Mergansers were noted in the following Kentucky counties: Fulton (BP), Henderson (CC), Muhlenberg (EWi), and Trigg (AY, MSc). Surf Scoters were found on four occasions in Kentucky: 2 on Owsley Fork L., Madison 24 Mar (JSo, ph. RF, RBa et al.); one on the Ohio R. at the mouth of the Licking R., Campbell/Kenton 13 Apr (FR); 6 on Green River L., Adair 14 Apr (ph. RD); and one on Fagan L., Marion 20–22 May (†JKe). There was only one report of Black Scoter in Kentucky: 2 on Green River L., Adair 14 Apr (ph. RD). No scoters were reported in Tennessee.

A Common Loon on the Green R., Hart, KY 27 May (JSo) was tardy. Up to 3 Eared Grebes remained at their regular winter location on S. Holston L., Sullivan, TN through 1 Apr (RLK, WCo, m.ob.); one was also at Shelby Farms, Shelby, TN 23 Mar (VR). A Brown Pelican was on the Tennessee R., Hamilton, TN 19 May (DW), and one at Nickajack L., Marion, TN 20 May (GB) was likely the same bird. There were several flocks of American White Pelicans rather far e. in the Region, including 17 at Hodgenville, Larue, KY 21 Mar (ph. LI); 31 on Herrington L., Garrard/Mercer, KY 28–29 Mar (LA, ph. DY); and 11 at the Falls of the Ohio 29 Mar (DSg, ph. AG), with 2 there 5 Apr (TBc, CF) and 12 there 17 May (CF, ph. AG et al.). An unusually early Anhinga was in Fayette, TN 27 Mar (AT); another was at Shelby Forest, Shelby, TN 16 May (SS).

Single American Bitterns were reported at five Kentucky and six Tennessee locales 31 Mar–24 Apr; an undoubtedly surprised observer found one in her driveway on Lookout Mt., Hamilton, TN 14 May (EWh)! One to 3 Least Bitterns were reported from five Kentucky locales 16 Apr–17 May in Ballard (MV fide EHa), Henderson (MMr, fide EHa), Hopkins (EHa), Muhlenberg (EHa), Ohio (EHa), and Union (BP, EHu). One at Alcoa, Blount 7 Apr (TH) made the only one reported from Tennessee; water levels at Standifer Gap were very low, and accordingly none were reported there. A Green Heron along West Old State Rd., Allen, KY 30 Mar (ABr, JBk) was early. Three White-faced/Glossy Ibis were at Kyker Bottoms, Blount, TN 26 Apr (C&PS).

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

An Osprey nest on a suspended gas pipeline over the Ohio R. below Greenup Dam, Greenup, KY was being attended by a pair 9 May (BP); this locale is the farthest e. the species has been found nesting in the state. Two Swallow-tailed Kites were found in Kentucky: one near Rockfield, Warren 22–23 Apr (ph. MMe) and one in e. Calloway 5 May (†SWH, LP, ph. DSs). Single Mississippi Kites at Louisville 4 (ph. MY) & 9–10 May (ph. JHz), and another at Duck River Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Humphreys, TN 10 May (SMc), were far from known breeding areas. An imm. Ferruginous Hawk was present at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport,



This juvenile Ferruginous Hawk represented Kentucky's first confirmed record of the species. It was present at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport in Boone County from some time in January through at least 12 May 2012 (here 6 April). Photograph by Mary Yandell.



Swallow-tailed Kites have become annual visitors in the Tennessee and Kentucky region over the past several years. This bird was present in Warren County, Kentucky 22 (here) and 23 April 2012. Photograph by Mork Meador.

Boone, KY as early as late Jan (CR, WH) through 12 May (BW). The bird was first photographed in late Mar (ph. RC) and seen by many during early Apr; the photograph confirms a state first record. At least one Golden Eagle lingered at Bernheim Forest, Bullitt/Nelson, KY through 13 Mar (ABe, KV); the only other report was of a juv. in s. Allen, KY 23 Mar (MBY). An ad. Northern Goshawk was reported at Moss Island W.M.A., Dyer, TN 13 Mar (†BPu). Single



This Whimbrel in Dyer County, Tennessee 29-30 (here 29) May was one of three found in the Tennessee and Kentucky region in spring 2012. This individual hung around for two days; most prior records are of birds seen for only one day. Photograph by Patrick Lemons.



Two White-winged Doves turned up in Kentucky during the spring 2012 season. This one was present in Rowan County 2-6 (here 5) April 2012. Photograph by Eddie Huber.

Merlins were noted on four occasions in Kentucky in Boone 3 Apr (RD), Jefferson 17 Apr (BP, EH), Edmonson 27 Apr (TD), and Marshall 30 Apr (EH). Four were also reported in Tennessee at Bell's Bend Park, Davidson 6 Mar (FF), in Unicoi 5 Apr (FA), at Bald Mt., Greene, TN 22 Apr (DMi), and at Duck River Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Humphreys 8 May (CAS, SS, ES). Migrant Peregrine Falcons were scarcer than normal, with only three reports in each state, including a pair at Doe River Gorge, Carter, TN 24 Apr+ (PR, RLK).

King Rails were detected at two Kentucky locales: one responded to playback during a survey at Doug Travis W.M.A., Carlisle/Hickman 23 Apr (MV, *fide* EH), and one was heard at Sauerheber 26 Apr (CMS et al.). A Virginia Rail heard at Clear Creek W.M.A., Hopkins 17 Apr (EH) was the only one reported in Kentucky. In Tennessee, one to two were at Kingsport, Sullivan mid-Feb–late Apr (RLK, RP), and singles

were reported from Wear Valley, Sevier 17 Mar (KB, KW), Shady Valley, Johnson 18 Mar (Rb, TM), Alcoa, Blount 21 Mar (TH), and Standifer Gap 26 Mar (DP). Soras were reported in above-average numbers across the Region, with up to 24 tallied at Clear Creek W.M.A., Hopkins 2 May (EH) and up to 20 tallied at Peabody W.M.A., Muhlenberg, KY 2 May (EH). One wintering at Alcoa, Blount, TN lingered through 21 Mar (TH). Common Gallinules were reported at three Kentucky locales: 3 at Clear Creek W.M.A., Hopkins 17 Apr (EH); one e. of Morganfield, Union 4 May (AN, EH, BP); and one at Ballard W.M.A., Ballard 22 May (MV *fide* EH). In Tennessee, a remarkable number of reports came from the e. part of the state, with one in Sevier 19 Mar and 11 Apr (HH et al.), one at Alcoa, Blount late Feb–7 Apr (TH), one to two at John Sevier L. 23 Apr–16 May (SH), one at Camp Jordan Pond, Hamilton 6–16 May (DCy et al.), and two at Kingsport, Sullivan 24–26 May (RP et al.). One was also reported at Ensley 12 May (JW). A Sandhill Crane in w. McCracken, KY 2 May (ph. JBr) was tardy.

In general, the warm weather seemed to usher shorebirds through rather early and without major fallouts, as species diversity and totals were well below average Regionwide this spring. Black-bellied Plovers were scarce in Kentucky, with only one to three found at two sites 27 Apr–27 May; one at John Sevier L. 27–30 May (SH) was late. Two American Golden-Plovers at McElroy L., Warren, KY 17 Mar (JHv, JBy, MBy, et al.) were early. Thirteen Semipalmated Plovers in w. Fulton, KY 9 Apr (JSo) were early; up to 330 were tallied along Horseshoe Rd., w. Henderson, on the relatively early date of 30 Apr (BP); a few lingered at the latter locale into the last week of May (CC, EH, BP). Black-necked Stilts were found on only three occasions away from their established breeding range in sw. Tennessee: one at Sauerheber 1–4 Apr (JMe, ph. CC); 6 e. of Morganfield, Union 16 Apr (BP, EH); and one at Lake No. 9, Fulton 29 Apr (BY, MY, EH). An American Avocet at John Sevier L. 26 Apr (SH) was the only one reported. A Solitary Sandpiper at Open Pond, Fulton, KY 17 Mar (MA) was relatively early. A Greater Yellowlegs in s. Jefferson, KY 27–29 May (EH, BP) was tardy. Totals of 92 Greater Yellowlegs and 374 Lesser Yellowlegs at Duck River Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Humphreys, TN

14 Apr (CAS, BI) represented noteworthy high counts. Willets were detected on only six occasions: 5 at Kentucky Dam Village S.P., Marshall, KY 27 Apr (SMA, RBr); 50 in Perry, TN 27 Apr (RS); 18 in Polk, TN 28 Apr (RHk); one adjacent to Obion W.M.A., Fulton, KY 28/29 Apr (BP, EH, BY, MY); 4 at Gibson County L., Gibson, TN 7 May (MG); and 2 on L. Barkley, Lyon, KY 16 May (JSo). The only Upland Sandpipers reported were 2 in Tipton, TN 31 Mar (JRW), one at Britton Ford, Tennessee N.W.R., Henry, TN 8 Apr (TW, CSm), and one heard over White Hall Rd., Madison, KY 22 Apr (AN). Two Whimbrels on a bar in Kentucky L. off Hamlin, Calloway, KY 11 May (ph. HC, ME) were the first to be seen in Kentucky in several years. In Tennessee, one was at Thorny Cypress W.M.A., Dyer 29–30 May (ph. PL, MG). There were three reports of Marbled Godwits: one at the Falls of the Ohio 16 Apr (ph. BP et al.); 21 at Blood River 26 Apr (HC); and one at Duck River Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Humphreys, TN 29 Apr (C&SR). A Ruddy Turnstone on L. Barkley, Lyon KY 4–5 May (BP, EH, AN, BY, MY) was the only one reported.

A count of 225 Dunlin along Horseshoe Rd., w. Henderson, KY 27 Apr (BP) was high for so early in the season. Stilt Sandpipers were scarce in Kentucky, with only one to two reported at five sites 14–28 Apr. Long-billed Dowitchers staged a relatively impressive flight in w. Kentucky; one was first detected at Boatwright W.M.A., Ballard 4 Apr (JSo), and a new state high count of 225 was tallied in w. Fulton (with 164 counted at the Long Point Unit Reelfoot N.W.R.) 14 Apr (HC, ME); 83 remained at the Long Point Unit 17 Apr (HC). Wilson's Phalaropes were scarce this spring, with only three Kentucky reports: one in w. Henderson 26 Apr (ph. CC) and singles adjacent to Obion W.M.A., Fulton 29 Apr and 1 May (BY, MY, EH, EH) and 3 May (HC). A Red-necked Phalarope was at Morristown Fish Hatchery, Hamblen, TN 20 May (BB).

There were three reports of Laughing Gull: 6 at Britton Ford, Tennessee N.W.R., Henry, TN 31 Mar (TW, CSm), with one still present 8 Apr (TW, CSm); a first-cycle bird at the Falls of the Ohio 3 May (ph. EH et al.); and an ad. in s. Jefferson, KY 8 May (ph. EH). Only one Franklin's Gull was detected: an ad. at the Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan, KY 28 Apr (ph. BW). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at Jacobson Park, Lexington, KY 5 Mar (ph. SHA, HJ, ph. FH et al.) represented a local first; one to four were reported on three occasions at Paris Landing S.P., Henry, TN 24 Mar–8 Apr. A first-cycle Great Black-backed Gull was reported from Pace Point, Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Henry, TN 31 Mar (TW, CSm). A Black Tern near Morganfield, Union 4 May (BP, EH, AN) was the only one reported in Kentucky. A Com-



This White-winged Dove in Bledsoe County 29 April 2012 was the first for southeastern Tennessee. Now an annual vagrant in the state, White-winged Doves bred in summer 2011 in southwestern Tennessee, the first known nesting. Photograph by Clyde Blum.

mon Tern over L. Barkley, Trigg, KY 6 Apr (BL) was early; other reports of interest included 25 over Kentucky L. above the dam, Marshall, KY and ca. 15 on L. Barkley, Livingston/Lyon, KY, all 5 May (BP, EHu, AN).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

A remarkable 5 White-winged Doves were reported: one s. of Sharkey, Rowan, KY 2-6 Apr (MWr, ph. BY, ph. EHu); one in Bledsoe, TN 29 Apr (ph. CDB, SKI), which represents a first for se. Tennessee; one in White, TN 6 May (ph. DD); one at Lexington, KY 6 May (ph. C&GT); and one at President's L., Shelby, TN 16 May (SS). An above-average number of Black-billed Cuckoos were reported, with mostly single birds seen or heard at five Kentucky and seven Tennessee locales 15 Apr–20 May, including at least 4 calling in Franklin, KY 19 May (JSO, CSO). Barn Owls were detected at four Kentucky locales: a nesting pair sw. of Bloomfield, Nelson during the season (TH); one found road-killed at Farmers, Rowan 6 Apr (BP); 2 heard near Lemon Bend of the Green R., Taylor 20 Mar (JSO); and 2, including a young bird, at a traditional nesting locale in s. Calloway 11 May (HC). The only Northern Saw-whet Owls reported were from traditional breeding locations in Unicoi and Sevier, TN. There were two reports of Short-eared Owl in Kentucky, both where the species wintered: at least 5 on the Sinclair Unit Peabody W.M.A., Muhlenberg 10 Mar (BY, MY, MA, DSt); and 4 along Horn-town Rd., e. Grayson 11 Mar (BP et al.). One Long-eared Owl was still present 11 Mar in se. Muhlenberg, KY where a group wintered (BP et al.). Three Rufous Hummingbirds lingered from winter in Kentucky; interestingly, both of the females s. of Haywood, Barren (L&RY), and a female at Franklin, Simpson (ST), were all last observed 26 Mar. One at Brentwood, Williamson, TN lingered through early Apr (DBO).

Single Olive-sided Flycatchers were detected on four occasions in each state 28 Apr–25 May. There were only three reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, all in Kentucky: one heard in ne. Jefferson 17 May (BP); one seen s. of Richmond, Madison 20 May (AN); and one on Ft. Campbell, Trigg 25 May (DMO). A singing Willow Flycatcher at Yatesville Lake W.M.A., Lawrence, KY 9 May (BP, EHu) was in a portion of the state where the species is rarely reported during the breeding season. Three Alder Flycatchers were detected in Kentucky, singles at Floyds Fork Park, Jefferson 6 May (BP, JBe, PB, JMc, CBs), near Middletown, Jefferson 17 May (MMO), and on Ft. Campbell, Trigg 22 May (DMO). None were reported in Tennessee away from their very limited breeding range in the ne. part of the state. A Great Crested Flycatcher sw. of Walton, Boone, KY 3 Apr (†M&JH) was very early.

Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported from seven Tennessee counties, all of which contain regular breeding locations for this now well-established local breeder. At least three pairs of Western Kingbirds were on or near President's L., Shelby, TN 16 May (SS). A pair of Loggerhead Shrikes with 3 fledged young in Sullivan, TN 15 May (RKn et al.) provided welcome evidence that this declining species continues to maintain a toehold in ne. Tennessee.

Out-of-range Bell's Vireos were detected at three Kentucky locales: 3 at and adjacent to Sauerheber 6 May (JMe); one in s. Jefferson 8 May (MA); and one at Middletown, Jefferson 16 May (MMO). Single Yellow-throated Vireos at Mammoth Cave N.P., Edmonson, KY 1 Apr (JBe, PB, CBs) and at Berea College Forest, Madison, KY 2 Apr (JBn) were the earliest to be reported in Kentucky. Three Blue-headed Vireos in Pulaski, KY 17 Mar (RD) and singles at E. C. Million Park, Madison, KY (AN) and at Anglin Falls, Rockcastle, KY (ET), both 18 Mar, were the earliest to be reported in Kentucky. A Red-eyed Vireo in Sevier, TN 18 Mar (KB) was remarkably early; also early were singles at Mammoth Cave N.P., Edmonson, KY 1 Apr (JBe, PB, CBs), at Lake Barkley S.P., Trigg, KY 2 Apr (MSc), and Hohenwald, Lewis, TN 3 Apr (BPu). A Warbling Vireo at Standifer Gap 27 Apr (DJ, DH) was rare for se. Tennessee.

Common Ravens were reported from several locations in Washington, TN 16 Mar, 13 Apr, and 21 May (RLK) and at Kingsport, Sullivan, TN 16 Mar (RP), all away from traditional mountain sites. There were only a few spring

reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch, with probable migrants noted in Garrard, KY 5 Apr (BP, AC) and Fayette, KY 25 Mar (SBo) and 29 Apr (MBu). There was only one report from the Wolfe, KY nesting population, that being one 26 May (JSw, DL). A Brown-headed Nuthatch at Cove Lake S.P., Campbell, TN 25 Mar (FR) represented a first county record for this expanding species. Single Brown Creepers were seen and heard singing in suitable breeding habitat on different parts of the Rock Bridge Trail, Daniel Boone N.F., Wolfe, KY 7 (BP) & 8 May (BP, JD et al.).

An impressive flock of at least 5000 Tree Swallows (possibly twice that number) was noted at the former Camp #11 Mine, Union, KY 16 Apr (BP, EHu). The first Bewick's Wren returned to one of the traditional locales in Rutherford, TN 14 Mar (TW). One to 2 Marsh Wrens were detected at two Kentucky sites 17 Mar–1 May. In Tennessee, single Marsh Wrens were found at Kingsport, Sullivan, TN through Apr 14 (RLK, RP) and at Radnor 21 Apr (JSh), and 2-3 were at Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Greene 1 & 14 Apr (DMi). Single Sedge Wrens were reported e. of Morganfield, Union, KY 16 Apr (BP, EHu), at Peeler Park, Davidson, TN 28 Apr (PC, MSm, MZ), and one s. of the intersection of KY-1333 and Red Hill Rd., Allen, KY 2 May (JBy, MBy, NGL). Cedar Waxwings moved through the Region in largest numbers a bit earlier than in the past few springs, with noteworthy flocks first reported during early Mar.

One to 2 Golden-winged Warblers were detected on seven occasions at four Kentucky sites 28 Apr–14 May. One at Cross Mt., Campbell, TN 14 Apr (C&LE) and 3 at Hampton Creek Cove, Carter, TN (MSa) were early. Other unusually early warblers included an Ovenbird at Lost Cove, Franklin, TN 2 Apr



Although Painted Buntings breed in the far southwestern corner of the Tennessee and Kentucky region, the species remains an exceptional find in Kentucky. This male was present in a yard outside Crestwood, Oldham County 26 April 2012. Photograph by Nick Gregory.

SA The record warmth of Mar resulted in a number of early arrival dates being broken in Kentucky and one in Tennessee. For some species that winter occasionally in the Region, the arrival dates were clouded by a continuum of reports. For example, in Kentucky, House Wrens were first noted at Paducah, *McCracken* 28 Mar (AY), at Murray, *Calloway* 28 Mar (ME), in *Russell* 31 Mar (RD), and near Geneva, *Henderson* 1 Apr (JMe). These might normally be considered lingering winter birds, but others at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski* 5 Apr (RD) and at Berea, *Madison* 8 Apr (RF, RBa) continued the string of arrivals and suggested that the earlier House Wrens may have just been very early migrants. While most record-early passerines were those that include some individuals that would be wintering in the s. United States, there were several Neotropical migrants included in the mix (Table 1).

Table 1. Record-early passerines in Tennessee and Kentucky, spring 2012.

Species	County and observer(s)	Date	Record early by how many days?
White-eyed Vireo	Allen, KY (MBy, MkB)	28 Mar	2 days
White-eyed Vireo	Trigg, KY (BL)	29 Mar	1 day
Warbling Vireo	Boone, KY (LM)	7 Apr	tied
Wood Thrush	Davidson, TN (CAS)	1 Apr	tied
Blue-winged Warbler	Two locales, Allen, KY (MBy)	1 Apr	1 day
Black-and-white Warbler	Trigg, KY (BL)	19 Mar	3 days
Nashville Warbler	Trigg, KY (BL)	8 Apr	1 day
Northern Parula	Trigg, KY (BL)	20 Mar	6 days
Northern Parula	Oldham, KY (KD)	20 Mar	6 days
Northern Parula	Edmonson, KY (JBe, PB, CBs)	21 Mar	5 days
Northern Parula	Pulaski, KY (RD)	26 Mar	tied
Yellow-throated Warbler	Allen, KY (MBy)	18 Mar	3 days
Yellow-throated Warbler	Lyon/Trigg, KY (JPo et al.)	19 Mar	2 days
Yellow-throated Warbler	Rowan, KY (BW)	19 Mar	2 days
Yellow-throated Warbler	Pike, KY (JC)	19 Mar	2 days
Yellow-throated Warbler	Laurel, KY (R&JW)	20 Mar	1 day
Yellow-throated Warbler	Bath, KY (BW)	20 Mar	1 day
Yellow-throated Warbler	Pulaski, KY (RD)	20 Mar	1 day
Yellow-throated Warbler	Edmonson, KY (JBe, PB, CBs)	21 Mar	tied
Black-throated Green Warbler	Lee, KY (WCu)	20 Mar	tied
Yellow-breasted Chat	Allen, KY (DBk, SBk)	15 Apr	1 day
Scarlet Tanager	Russell, KY (RD)	31 Mar	5 days
Dickcissel	Fulton, KY (HC, ME)	14 Apr	2 days
Bobolink	Fulton, KY (HC, ME)	14 Apr	1 day

(MJW); a Tennessee Warbler at Hohenwald, Lewis, TN 16 Apr (BPu); a Nashville Warbler at Radnor 4 Apr (FF); a Black-and-white Warbler in Great Smoky Mountains N.P., Sevier, TN 19 Mar (SWi); 3 Cerulean Warblers in DeKalb, TN 3 Apr (MJW); 6 Cerulean and 2 Blackburnian Warblers at Frozen Head S.P.,

Morgan, TN 5 Apr (MJW); a Yellow-throated Warbler in Sevier, TN 19 Mar (KW); and single Prairie Warblers in se. Adair, KY 31 Mar (WB) and near Barren Fork, Daniel Boone N.F., *McCreary*, KY (RD), in *Hancock*, KY (MBr), and in Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Trigg, KY (BL), all 1 Apr. A Common Yel-

lowthroat at Sauerheber 23 Mar (ph. CC) may have been lingering from winter or a very early migrant. It was an excellent season for Swainson's Warblers in Kentucky, with the following reports of interest: singles along Pounder Branch, Cane Creek W.M.A., *Laurel* 16 Apr (DCr) and on the Rock Bridge Trail, Daniel Boone N.F., *Wolfe* 21 Apr (BW), the earliest to be reported; 3 heard at Blanton Forest S.N.P., *Harlan* 29 Apr (SHa); 7 seen/heard in the Red River Gorge Geological Area, *Powell/Wolfe* 7 May (BP); 3 at Little Lick Recreation Area, *Pulaski* 12 May (RD); singles along Rock Branch, *McCreary*, near *Sawyer*, *McCreary*, and along KY-90, Daniel Boone N.F., *Whitley* (RD), all 15 May; and 2 heard at different locales nw. of Beattyville, *Lee* 31 May (BP). In middle Tennessee, where Swainson's Warblers are vagrants, a singing male returned to Shelby Bottoms, Nashville, TN 29 Apr–8 May (PC, m.ob.) for the 2nd consecutive year. Two Black-throated Blue Warblers at Craven's House, *Hamilton*, TN 29 Apr (TR) and a male at Radnor 2 May (PC, SBL) were rare transients away from breeding areas. Two Orange-crowned Warblers in Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Trigg, KY 21 Mar (BL) and one at J. J. Audubon S.P., *Henderson*, KY 1 Apr (JMe) may have been continuing from winter or very early migrants. Connecticut Warblers were found in Kentucky on only four occasions: one at Louisville 2 May (†SWa) was extraordinarily early; others were found along Pointer Creek Rd., *Pulaski* 14 May (RD) and heard singing in ne. *Jefferson* 17–18 May (BP). In Tennessee, one was at Craven's House, *Hamilton*, TN 12 May (KAC), and one was at Radnor that same day (CAS et al.). One to 2 Mourning Warblers were reported on nine occasions at seven Kentucky locales 5–19 May. In Tennessee, singles were reported on five dates at five locations 28 Apr–22 May. A tally of 7 Canada Warblers at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, KY 17 May (BP) was relatively impressive.

A total of 8 Bachman's Sparrows were reported within traditionally inhabited portions of Ft. Campbell, Trigg, KY, with an additional 2 encountered in the *Montgomery*, TN portion of the base 15 & 25 May (DMo). A Field Sparrow, apparently of the w. subspecies *arenacea*, was seen along Straightline Rd., w. *Henderson*, KY 17 Mar (tBr, EH, MY). One to 2 Lark Sparrows were reported at the following Kentucky locales: n. of West Old State Rd., *Allen* 15 Apr (TBr); one along McDonald Landing Rd., *Henderson* 1 May (ph. CC), with 2 there 27 May (CC); 2 along Pack Church Rd., *McLean* 2 May (tJKt); 2 along Squire Lyles Rd., *Allen* 3 May (TBr, ABr, JBk); and 4 within traditionally inhabited portions of Ft. Campbell, Trigg 25 May (DMo). In Tennessee, apart from their traditional breeding areas in *Rutherford* and on

Ft. Campbell, *Montgomery*, one was at McKenzie, *Carroll* 29 Apr (MT), up to 3 were in *Carroll* 2-4 May (MJW), and one was in *Gibson* 31 May (MG). A Grasshopper Sparrow along West Old State Rd., *Allen*, KY 6-10 Mar (†JBk, ABr, JMa, †JBy) may have been lingering from winter or a very early migrant; next earliest was one heard singing (also very early) e. of Munfordville, *Hart* 22 Mar (SKi, CMn). A Henslow's Sparrow along Trammel Cr. n. of West Old State Rd., *Allen*, KY 4 Mar (†JBy, TBr, ABr, †JBk) may have been lingering from winter or a very early migrant; up to 3 heard in the Land Between the Lakes Elk/Bison Prairie, *Trigg*, KY during the 3rd week of May (BL) represented a local first

for probable breeding. There were reports of Le Conte's Sparrows from three Kentucky locales: up to 11 that likely wintered on the Cape Hills Unit Sloughs W.M.A., *Henderson* 17 & 26 Mar (BP, EHu, ph. MY et al.), with at least 2 still there 14 Apr (BP, KOS); one at the Clarks River N.W.R., *Marshall* 28 Mar (JSo); and up to 6 and probably as many as 10 at Surrey Hills Farm, ne. *Jefferson* during late Mar (ph. BP), with one last seen there 7 Apr (BP). One at Bell's Bend Park, *Davidson*, TN 6-7 Apr (TL et al.) was the only one reported from Tennessee. A **Nelson's Sparrow** at Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville 12 May (MSt, b. BP, PS, ph. EHu) represented only the 2nd spring record for Kentucky. A Lincoln's Sparrow at Shelby Farms, *Shelby*, TN 5 Mar (VR) and one on the Sinclair Unit of Peabody W.M.A., *Muhlenberg*, KY 10-11 Mar (MA, ph. DSt, ph. BP et al.) may have been lingering winter birds or very early migrants.

A Summer Tanager was heard at Mammoth Cave N.P., *Eatonson*, KY on the extraordinarily early (but not record-early) date of 26 Mar (TD). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were not particularly numerous at feeding stations this spring, possibly due to the warm weather. A male **Painted Bunting** was present in a yard at Crestwood, *Oldham*, KY 26 Apr (TF, ph. NGr). Two Brewer's Blackbirds in *Allen*, KY 19 Mar (ABr, JBk) were relatively far east; at least 100-150 in groups of 2 to 25-30 were seen coming in with other blackbirds to a roost e. of Morganfield, *Union*, KY 16 Apr (BP, EHu). A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Standifer Gap 26-27 Apr (LW, ph. CDB, m.ob.) furnished the first record for se. Tennessee. For the 17th consecutive year, up to 3 Dickcissels were at Limestone, *Washington*, TN 4 May+ (RLK et al.); this is one of the few remaining strongholds for this species in e. Tennessee.

There were three reports of Red Crossbills in Tennessee, all near mountain areas where



This Yellow-headed Blackbird at Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton County, Tennessee 29 April 2012 furnished the first record for southeastern Tennessee. Photograph by Clyde Blum.

the species sporadically breeds: 2 on Roan Mt., *Carter* 14 Apr (RLK), 2 at a feeder in Erwin, *Unicoi* 28 Apr (*fide* BS), and 6 at Great Smoky Mountains N.P., *Sevier* 27 May (TW). It would be edifying to know whether Type 1 or Type 1 (or both?) were involved in these reports. A few Pine Siskins continued from winter at a few sites but there were hardly any reports of migrants; reports of interest included 2 sw. of Fisherville, *Jefferson*, KY 3 May (JHu, EHu); a flock of up to 20 at the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area Administration Office, *Trigg*, KY continuously through 3 May (BL); and 4-8 nw. of Riders Mill, *Hart*, KY through the spring (ph. BA), with one last seen there 18 May (BA).

Cited contributors (subregional editors in boldface): Linda Alexander, Fred Alsop, Michael Autin, Bonnie Avery, Dave Baker (DBa), Rebecca Bates (RBa), Jamin Beachy (JBy), Makaya Beachy (MkB), Matthan Beachy (MBy), Tom Becker (TBe), Jane Bell (JBe), Pat Bell, Andrew Berry (ABe), Carol Besse (CBs), Rob Biller (RBi), Scott Block (SBl), Clyde D. Blum (CDB), Simon Bonner (SBo), David Booker (DBo), Jean Bremermann (JBn), Ben Britton, Mike Brown (MBr), Abraham Brubaker (ABr), Daniel Brubaker (DBk), John David Brubaker (JBk), Stephen Brubaker (SBk), Timothy Brubaker (TBr), John Brunjes (JBr), Gary Brunvoll, Rhonda Bryant (RBr), Kevin Burke, Wendy Burt, Marissa Buschow (MBu), Kevin A. Calhoon (KAC) (se. Tennessee), Joan Carr, **Phillip Casteel** (middle Tennessee), Hap Chambers, Wallace Coffey (WCo), Don Colley (DCy), Derek Coomer (DCr), Amy Covert, Charlie Crawford, Rodney Crice, Wes Cunningham (WCu); Kathy Dennis, Roseanna Denton, Douglas Downs, Jon Dunn, Tom Durbin, Melissa Easley, Glen Eller, Chuck & Lola Estes (C&LE), Connie Farmer, Frank

Fekel, Rob Foster, Teresa Fultz, Noah Glick (NGl), Alan Goldstein, Mark Greene, Nick Gregory (NGr), Erin Harper (EHa), Stratton Hatfield (SHa), Ron Hoff (RHf), David Hollie, Jason Holzworth (JHz), Joseph Hoover (JHv), Tom Howe, Harold Howell, Rick Houlik (RHk), Eddie Huber (EHu), Jennifer Huber (JHu), Mark & Joanie Hubinger (M&JH), Susan Hubley (SHu), Frank Hugins, William Hull, Bob Ingle, Linda Ireland, Daniel Jacobson, Heather Jordan, John Keith (JKe), Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS), Steve Kistler (SKi), James Kittinger (JKi), Starr Klein (SKl), Rick L. Knight (RLK) (ne. Tennessee), Roy Knispel (RKn), Tony Lance, David Lang, Patrick Lemons, Bill Lisowsky, Scott Marsh (SMa), Jerome Martin (JMa), Judith McCandless (JMc), Joe McGuinness (JMcG), Lee McNeely, Tom McNeil, Susan McWhirter (SMc), Mark Meador (MMe), John Meredig (JMe), Cap Middleton (CMn), Don Miller (DMi), Chuck Mills (CMs), Mark Monroe (MMo), Mike Morton (MMr), Daniel Moss (DMo), Dollyann Myers, Andy Newman, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP), David Patterson, Rick Phillips, John Pollpeter (JPo), Brookie & Jean Potter (B&JP), Leslie Potts, Shirley Price, Bill Pulliam (BPu), Peter Range, Frank Renfrow, Virginia Reynolds, Cindy Rogers, Tommie Rogers, Cyndi & Steve Routledge (C&SR), Mike Sanders (MSa), Ed Schneider, Mary Schmidt (MSc), Jan Shaw (JSh), Michael B. Sledjeski (MBS), Chris A. Sloan (CAS), Chad Smith (CSm), Mike Smith (MSm), Carolyn & Phil Snow (C&PS), Carol Sole (CSO), Jeff Sole (JSo), Scott Somershoe, Gary Sprandel, Daniel Stephens (DSs), David Stewart (DSt), Bryan Stevens, Matt Stickel (MSt), Paul Stickel, Rubeon Stoll, Del Striegel (DSg), Joe Swanson (JSw), Ed Talbott, **Mike Todd** (w. Tennessee), Charles & Gretchen Tremoulet (C&GT), Allen Trently, Shannon Trimboli, Mandy Van Meter, Kelly Vowels, Jay Walko (JWa), Sean Ward (SWa), Keith Watson, Melinda J. Welton (MJW), Ellen Whitaker (EWh), Steve White (SWH), Dan Williams, Eric Williams (EWi), Shane Williams (SWi), Jeff R. Wilson (JRW), Terry Witt, Libby Wolfe, Richard & Julia Wolinski (R&JW), Mike Wright (MWr), Brian Wulker, Ben Yandell, Mary Yandell, Aviva Yasgur, Doug Young, Lew & Ruth Young (L&RY), Mary Zimmerman. 🐦

Chris Sloan, 2036 Priest Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37215, (csloan1973@gmail.com)
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, (brainard@mindspring.com)

Alabama & Mississippi



GULF OF MEXICO

Steven W. McConnell

This migration season's weather patterns did not appear to produce any classic fallout events in our Region, certainly none corresponding with frontal passages. April 26 was likely the best day to have been in the field this spring, with one observer reporting that Dauphin Island was "covered with birds." Strangely, this date was sandwiched between weather boundary movements on April 21 and May 9, when significant avian appearances were not noted. Overall, temperatures were warmer than normal the entire season, and much more so in March. Precipitation was noticeably below average in most locations, especially in the north. Very few rarities were discovered, but a few lingered from winter to spice up the season. Many Neotropical migrants were reported earlier than normal, especially warblers.

Abbreviations: B.A.S. (Birmingham Audubon Society, Birmingham, AL); Coldwater (Coldwater River N.W.R., Quitman/Tallahatchie, MS); Dauphin (Dauphin I., Mobile, AL); Ft. Morgan (Ft. Morgan State Historical Park, Baldwin, AL); G.C. (Gulf Coastal Region of s. Alabama); I.C.P. (Inland Coastal Plain Region of s.-cen. Alabama); Monte Sano (Monte Sano S.P., Madison, AL); M.R. (Mountain Region of n. Alabama); Noxubee (Noxubee N.W.R., Noxubee/Oktibbeha/Winston, MS); Seaman (Seaman Road lagoons, Jackson, MS); Saint Catherine's (Saint Catherine's Creek N.W.R., Adams, MS); T.V. (Tennessee Valley Region of n. Alabama); Wheeler (Wheeler N.W.R., Limestone/Morgan/Madison, AL).

WATERFOWL THROUGH SPOONBILL

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck reports seemed on the wane this season, with only four observations received. The number of I.C.P. records

was doubled from two to four by at least 10 birds seen in Lee 30 Apr (ph. SM) and up to 6 found at Hacoma, Geneva 13-19 Apr (ph. OHJ). Up to 14 were also observed several times at the Gulf Shores W.T.P., Baldwin, AL 26 Apr-14 May (ph. KC), where breeding was suspected. Mississippi had just 8 at Founder Pt., Jackson 1 Apr (JNW). Three late Greater White-fronted Goose reports were received. A bird at Hoover, Jefferson 1-10 May (ph. KM, KW) furnished a new late record for Alabama. One at a turf farm in Lafayette, MS 4-24 Apr (G&SK, ph. WP) was tardy by three weeks, but a single at Coldwater 20 May (ph. JH, m.ob.) was six weeks later than normal. Three Snow Geese made a rare spring M.R. find during the count week for the B.A.S. spring bird count 28 Apr (JSh). A count of the 150 Gadwalls along the Mobile Causeway, Mobile provided a new spring G.C. high 12 Mar (ECS, JAT) but was eclipsed by the 1280 at Saint Catherine's 5 Mar (BSt). Most of Alabama's coastal Mottled Duck sightings are made on the w. side of Mobile Bay, making the 2 seen at Ft. Morgan 25 Apr locally rare (GDJ). Blue-winged Teal numbers peaked in early Apr, as indicated by the 400 estimated on a field pond in Colbert, AL 2 Apr (DJS) and up to 601 totaled at Seaman 8 Mar-5 Apr (m.ob.). Northern Shovelers also reached their seasonal maxima around the same time. The same visit to the Colbert, AL field pond 2 Apr found 300 shovelers (DJS), and 800 were counted at Coldwater 26 Mar (SHo). The high count for Northern Pintail was easily the 1415 observed at Saint Catherine's 5 Mar (BSt). Three Ring-necked Ducks at Leighton, Colbert, AL 12-23 May (GDJ, HEH, DJS) and a lone bird at Coldwater 20 May (G&SK, WP) were late. Scoter reports seemed scarce this season, with only three reports totaling 18 birds. Surf Scoters were represented by 3 males at Bon Secour N.W.R., Baldwin, AL 26 Apr (BP) and 14 plus a Black Scoter at the Washington Pier, Hancock, MS 8 Mar (NB, JR). The only Common Merganser observation received was of 2 females found with Red-breasted Mergansers at Sardis Dam, Panola, MS 10 Mar (G&SK).

Three Red-throated Loons were discovered at the Dauphin airport 24 Mar (HEH, MSt, PR), furnishing a new G.C. spring maximum count. Pied-billed Grebe numbers peaked 1 Mar, with 358 counted in the Riverton area of Colbert, AL (DJS) representing a new T.V. maximum. A lone bird in the Perdido Bay area, Baldwin, AL 17 May (AP) hinted at a rare G.C. breeding. The total of 60 Horned Grebes found on Dauphin 10 Mar (HEH) provided a new high count for the G.C. Five Horned Grebes at the Oktibbeha County L., Oktibbeha, MS 21

Apr (TLS) were late. Two Eared Grebe reports came from Mississippi, where the species is uncommon: one at Seaman 3 Mar (NB) and one at Hollandale, Washington 8 Apr (EW). Four Alabama Wood Stork observations included 3 very early se. of Midway, Bullock 26 Apr (ECS) and 7 early there 18 May (JAT). Six Anhinga reports totaling 24 birds included up to 5 returning to the M.R. breeding site in Shelby (GJH) and one found at a small swamp in Swan Creek W.M.A., Limestone, AL 13 Apr-27 May (CG, JTG), possibly indicative of a rare T.V. nesting. Rare inland Alabama American White Pelicans were represented by 10 in the Coosa R. near Southside, Etowah 18 Mar (B&AS) and 10 at Eufaula N.W.R., Barbour 13 May (JAT). Four Neotropic Cormorants were discovered at Saint Catherine's 16 May (VR). Despite its regular presence in Louisiana, this species is rarely reported in our Region.

Five American Bittern observations totaling 7 birds were reported, all singles except for 3 at Swan Creek W.M.A., Limestone, AL 27 Apr during the Wheeler spring bird count (CG, JMH). Observers on the B.A.S. spring count 28 Apr located 130 Great Blue Herons and 109 Great Egrets, comprising new M.R. and new spring M.R. maxima, respectively. Later in the season, 365 Great Egrets were counted at Saint Catherine's, an excellent count (VR). Up to 15 Snowy Egrets at Leighton, Colbert, AL 3-15 May (m.ob.) was a high local tally. Little Blue Heron numbers were led by the 600 in the Clearwater Forever Wild Tract, n. of Stockton, Baldwin, AL 20 May (MJJ), establishing a new spring G.C. maximum. A Tricolored Heron at Leighton, Colbert, AL 14-19 May made a rare inland find (DJS). Excellent White Ibis totals of 1000-1200 were obtained during several vis-



A nocturnal search of the marshes at Point aux Pins near Bayou la Batre, Mobile County resulted in the banding of a Yellow Rail 13 March 2012, for only the sixth Alabama spring record. Photograph by Eric Soehren.



This Limpkin provided only a fourth Alabama record, and first in spring, during its afternoon stay 13 May 2012 in a tree near a frequently traveled access road at Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Barbour County. Photograph by John A. Trent.

its to the Clearwater Forever Wild Tract, n. of Stockton, Baldwin, AL 20-26 May (MJJ). Only three Glossy Ibis reports were received totaling 16 birds; likewise, three reports of White-faced Ibis were also received, including an amazing 100 seen 11 Apr at Hollandale, Washington, MS (EW). The only Roseate Spoonbills noted were 28 at Saint Catherine's 16 May (VR).

OSPREY THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A search for Osprey nests along the e. stretch of the Tennessee R., Jackson 28 May produced a total of seven pairs with 3 young (17 total birds), a record count for inland Alabama (ph. JG). Scattered groups of Swallow-tailed Kites totaling 29 birds were observed flying e. over Daphne, Baldwin, AL 12 Mar (RC), a new G.C. spring high count. An early Mississippi Kite arrived 31 Mar over the Mississippi State University campus, Oktibbeha, MS (ZL, SRi)—18 days before the previous area early date. The species' distribution thins out in n. Alabama, but 18 were seen at two locations in Jefferson 28 Apr for new local high total (SSH, DPG). Yellow Rail surveys were not as successful, quantitatively, as last season's in finding these rarely seen marsh denizens. One was banded at Point aux Pins, Mobile, AL 13 Mar (ph. ECS, JAT, JNW et al.), one was found at Grand Bay N.W.R., Jackson, MS 7 Mar (JNW), and up to 3 were seen on surveys done at Mississippi Sandhill Crane N.W.R., Jackson, MS 3-24 Mar (m.ob.). Single late American Coots were found at four different I.C.P. and G.C. locations 26-28 May. Alabama's 4th Limpkin was enjoyed by a few lucky observers on the afternoon of 13 May at Eufaula N.W.R., Barbour (ph. JAT). Sandhill Cranes were running a little late de-

parting Wheeler 4-10 Mar, where 1-2 birds were observed (CG).

An American Golden-Plover was seen in Morgan, AL 25 Mar (JJ), and another was found the next day at Blakeley I., Mobile, AL (HEH, PR, MSt). Also appearing during the typical late Mar passage period were 34 at Seaman 24 Mar; a few remained through 10 May (m.ob.). More unusual was one near Leighton, Colbert, AL 12-14 May (ph. BCh, GDJ, HEH et al.), a bird in nearly full breeding plumage. Surveys found up to 37 Piping Plovers on West Ship I., Harrison, MS 6-31 Mar. The Black-necked Stilt found at Coldwater 10 Mar (G&SK) was early by 13 days; an American Avocet at the same location 7 Apr was an uncommon transient (G&SK). Late Upland Sandpipers in Alabama were at Oakland, Lauderdale 3 May (DJS, JTG, WM) and Sprague, Montgomery 13 May (LFG). Only 78 Whimbrels were reported this season from the Grand Bay, Mobile, AL location that has hosted hundreds during prior years (CK, 15 Apr). Excellent Red Knot totals were reported from Dauphin this season 28 Apr-20 May, including 91 found 28 Apr (JW, DL, GEH). A large concentration of Sanderlings was encountered on Dauphin, where 212 furnished a new spring G.C. high 4 Mar (HEH). Early Alabama Semipalmated Sandpipers were recorded at three locations: one at Leighton, Colbert 19 Apr (DJS); up to 3 on Dauphin 24-31 Mar (HEH, PR); and one at Blakeley I., Mobile 6 Apr (HEH). The 375 counted on Dauphin 15 May must have been an im-

pressive sight (HEH, BCG). Western Sandpipers numbered 178 on Dauphin 31 Mar (HEH, PR, MSt). A new n. Alabama high Least Sandpiper count was furnished by the 209 in Colbert 14 May (DJS). Coastal Dunlin counts peaked early in the season, with 1000 on Dauphin 14 Mar (BCG, PR) and 600 totaled in Hancock, MS 8 Mar (NB). Stilt Sandpipers seemed to be unusually prevalent, with a total of 185 reported from three locations: up to 68 were seen at Seaman 3 May; 85 at Coldwater 15 Apr, and 32 at Blakeley I., Mobile, AL 20 Apr. Two Coldwater locations held 2191 Long-billed Dowitchers 7 Apr (m.ob.). The only phalarope reported was a Wilson's at Blakeley I., Mobile, AL 23 Apr-14 May (HEH, ph. BSu), where the species is rare in spring.

GULLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Lesser Black-backed Gulls have become more regular in the Region, but 3 inland at Town Creek marsh, Colbert 10 Mar (DJS) provided a new spring Alabama high count. A first-cycle Glaucous Gull spent the early part of the season at Ft. Morgan (7 Mar-28 Apr, ph. JNe, m.ob.); another was observed repeatedly in the area 27 Apr-28 May and furnished a new late Alabama departure date. A first-cycle Great Black-backed Gull on Dauphin 5 Mar (BCG, PR), where the species is rare but regular, constituted the season's only report. Two sightings of what appeared to be Herring Gull x Kelp Gull hybrids were received: an ad. on Dauphin at the East End of the island 4 Mar (HEH, TH) and another, or possibly the same ad., at the Magnolia Springs Landfill, Baldwin, AL 7 Apr (ph. LC). Gull-billed Tern numbers at Blakeley I., Mobile, AL reached 19 on 20 Apr (ECS), an excellent count. Four Sandwich Terns at Gulf S.P., Baldwin, AL 24 Mar were early (ph. KC). A Black Tern on e. Ship I., Harrison, MS 19 May was unexpected (ED). The maximum



A first-cycle Glaucous Gull was observed 7 March-28 April (here) 2012 at Fort Morgan, Alabama; another (or the same?) was tracked 27 April-28 May on Dauphin Island, Mobile County. The last date provided a new late Alabama departure record for the species. Photograph by Janice Neitzel.

Black Skimmer count was just 350 in *Harrison*, MS 12 May (OG, BC), where counts have been much higher in recent years.

Two Inca Doves were heard singing at Sumner, *Tallahatchie*, MS 7 Apr (G&SK), where the species is now a very rare nester. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were definitely on the move 16 May at Saint Catherine's, where 44 were counted (VR). An early Common Nighthawk was seen and heard at Irondale, *Jefferson*, AL 29 Mar (JN). The first known outer coastal Ruby-throated Hummingbird nesting was documented on Dauphin 13 Apr–10 May (HEH, m.ob). A Callopie Hummingbird was present in *Pearl River*, MS 26 Mar (NB). A sprinkling of Olive-sided Flycatcher reports included singles during the Wheeler spring count 28 Apr (RJR, RSH, DCH; a new early Alabama record), at Green Mt. at Huntsville, *Madison*, AL 4 May (SJM, ph. M&AS), and in *Forrest*, MS 12 May (LBas). Least Flycatchers are rarely identified during spring in our Region, making the 1-2 birds on Dauphin 22-26 Apr noteworthy (ECS, HEH, MSt). A rare spring Ash-throated Flycatcher was discovered in *Hancock*, MS 4 Mar and was likely a wintering bird (NB). The season's first Great Crested Flycatcher report from the T.V. was documented 6 Apr, a new early record (JMH). Two Western Kingbirds were found in coastal Alabama, where they are much rarer than during the fall season. One was at Ft. Morgan 27 Apr (R&GB), the other on Dauphin 29 Apr–1 May (HEH, MSt). An early Eastern Kingbird was at Guntersville, *Marshall*, AL 6 Apr (DJS). Gray Kingbirds continued a small presence on the G.C., as evidenced by one found at Ft. Morgan 7 Apr–28 May (m.ob.) and 1-2 seen at various spots on Dauphin 19-28 Apr (m.ob.). A lone Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found at Key Cave N.W.R., *Lauderdale*, AL

19 May (ph. SRM). While the species is an increasing T.V. breeder, it was last documented in this area in 2007.

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

Yellow-throated Vireos were apparently on the move into Alabama early this season, with singles reported 15-31 Mar near Midway, *Bullock* (JAT), near Houston, *Winston* (LB), and w. of Stevenson, *Jackson* (BH). Warbling Vireos returned to nest again in extreme nw. Alabama at Waterloo, where one bird was found 28 Apr (TMH, JTG). Probable transients were noted at Oktibbeha County L., *Oktibbeha*, MS 25 Apr (TLS, MS) and on Green Mt., *Madison*, AL 14 May (SRM). An early Red-eyed Vireo arrived on Dauphin 15 Mar (DWD). More were found several days later, including one at Marion in *Perry*, AL 21 Mar (HHW, ASC), one in *Clarke*, AL 21 Mar (AP), at least 2 in *Crenshaw*, AL 23 Mar (KA), and one in *Jackson*, AL 1-2 Apr (BH). Four Fish Crow sightings came from the T.V., where the species is rare but increasing. Tree Swallows continue to establish a widespread breeding presence in n. Alabama. An ad. pair with young were found 20 May–1 Jun at a new location at Clay, *Jefferson* (RRS). A count of 1910 Cliff Swallows on the Wheeler spring count 28 Apr made a new Alabama high count. Cave Swallows made a noticeable showing this season, with four coastal reports, including one bird at Seaman 22 Mar (JNW), another at the airport on Dauphin 24-27 Mar (HEH, PR), one at Ft. Morgan 24 Apr (GDJ, DGJ), and one more 26 Apr at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin (HEH). The 208 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on the Wheeler spring count furnished a new T.V. maximum 28 Apr.

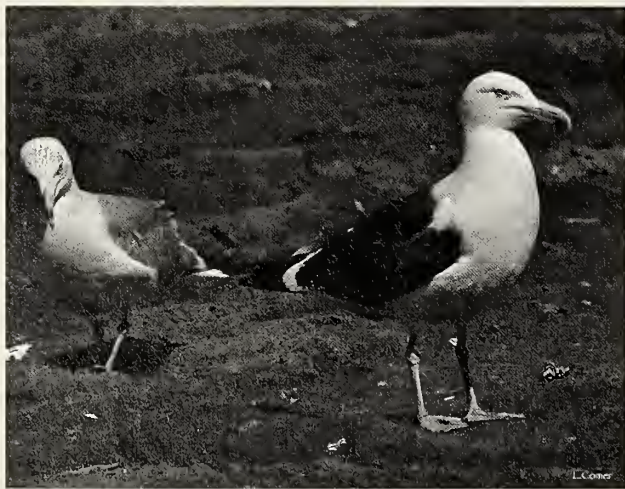
Early Blue-winged Warblers were seen near Stevenson, *Jackson*, AL 2 Apr (BH) and at Monte Sano 6 Apr (BH, JMH). An early Golden-winged Warbler was observed at Ft. Morgan 5 Apr (RRS, MBS, FB). The female Nashville Warbler at Hardaway, *Macon*, AL 7 May furnished only the 2nd spring I.C.R. record (ECS). At least



In a good spring for the species, this Yellow-headed Blackbird was near Fort Morgan, Baldwin County, Alabama 22 April 2012. Photograph by Janice Neitzel.



Seen by many during the Alabama Ornithological Society spring weekend 2012, this Yellow-headed Blackbird on Dauphin Island, Mobile County (here 21 April) coincided with the appearance of an adult male at Fort Morgan (above). Sightings of the species in the Alabama and Mississippi region have ebbed and flowed over the years but appear to be on the upswing again in recent seasons. Photograph by Bala Chennupati.



Apparent adult Herring Gull x Kelp Gull hybrids were seen 4 March 2012 on Dauphin Island, Mobile County and 7 April 2012 (shown here) at the Magnolia Springs landfill, Baldwin County. This cross continues to appear sporadically along the Alabama coast. Photograph by Lisa Comer.

5 Magnolia Warblers at Montgomery, *Montgomery* 13 May (LFG) provided a new spring I.C.P. high count. The earliest Black-throated Green Warblers were found at Monte Sano 19 Mar (JE) and in *Jackson*, AL 26 Mar (BH); 2 singing males were still lingering 13 May in *Montgomery*, AL (LFG). The male Blackburnian Warbler near Adaton, *Oktibbeha*, MS 16 May (TLS, MS) set a new late area departure date by three days. The Yellow-throated Warbler near Little Texas, *Macon*, AL 8 Mar (LW, KJ) was early, as were the 2 in *Dale*, AL 8 Mar (RW) and one in *Bullock*, AL 6-8 Mar (JAT). Early Prairie Warblers were represented by the one in *Bullock*, AL 18 Mar (JAT) and at least 2 in *Crenshaw*, AL 23 Mar (KA). Later in the season, late Bay-breasted Warblers were detected in *Montgomery*, AL 11 May (LFG) and at Eoline, *Bibb*, AL 23 May (HHW, ASC), where the species is rarely found in spring. Early Black-and-white Warblers were observed on Dauphin 4 Mar (PR, MSt, J&JSt) and in *Bullock*, AL 11 Mar (JAT, DW). Coastal Mississippi's wintering Painted Redstart continued through 16 Mar in *Jackson*, where it had been enjoyed by many birders for several weeks. Early Prothonotary Warblers were found 17 Mar in *Perry*

(MSh), which tied the earliest inland Alabama record and 25 Mar at Snowdown, *Montgomery*, AL (LFG). The Worm-eating Warbler at Noxubee 29 Mar (TLS) was record early for the area by one day. Early Swainson's Warbler arrivals (one bird each) were noted at Birmingham, *Jefferson*, AL 18 Mar (RJR, SR), in *Montgomery*, AL 25 Mar (LFG), at Kinston, *Coffee*, AL 27-29 Mar (RW), and in Tombigbee N.E., *Choctaw*, MS 1 Apr (ZL). Ovenbirds were out in force 28 Apr during the Wheeler spring count, when 9 were totaled for a new spring T.V. maximum. Not to be outdone, 14 Northern Waterthrushes were also found on the count, also a new spring T.V. maximum. A singing Connecticut Warbler at Coldwater 20 May (m.ob.) was an excellent find for this rarely detected species. Continuing the early warbler theme, eager Hooded Warblers were discovered 12 Mar on Dauphin (DWD), 19 Mar in *Covington*, AL (TWS), and 22 Mar in *Montgomery*, AL (LFG). Also early was the Yellow-breasted Chat 21 Mar at Stimpson W.M.A., *Clarke*, AL (AP).

The Spotted Towhee at Oxford, *Lafayette*, MS continued until 9 Apr in the yard where it had wintered (ph. RBris, PW). An impressive 22 Lark Sparrows were found on the Wheeler spring count 28 Apr, a new Alabama spring maximum. More surprising were the 13+ Henslow's Sparrows at Point aux Pins, *Mobile*, AL 13 Mar (b., ph. ECS, JAT), furnishing a new Alabama high count. Six early tanager reports were collected from within Alabama 28 Mar–6 Apr. The earliest was the male Summer Tanager

in Clay, *Jefferson*, AL 28 Mar (RRS, MBS). Three Scarlet Tanagers 31 Mar—one at Ft. Morgan (MJJ) and 2 on Dauphin (HEH, PR, MSt)—were not traveling far behind. Another early migrant was the female Rose-breasted Grosbeak 24-25 Mar on Dauphin; one there 21 May was quite late (BCG, PR). A new early T.V. record for Indigo Bunting was furnished by a singing bird at Huntsville, *Madison* 8 Apr (HP). Two Painted Buntings continued through 23 Mar in the yard where they wintered at Ozark, *Dale*, AL (LJ). A small flock of 75 Bobolinks at the Marion fish hatchery, *Perry*, AL 23 May (JTG) was a surprisingly high count for that late in the season. Three Yellow-headed Blackbird sightings continued the recent trend of regular coastal Alabama reports for the species. A male was at Ft. Morgan 30 Mar (RRS), and an imm. male was on Dauphin 21-22 Apr (ph. BCh, m.ob.). Another male Yellow-headed was e. of Ft. Morgan 22 Apr at a feeder (ph. JNe), possibly the 30 Mar bird. The only reported Bronzed Cowbirds were at Ansley, *Hancock*, MS 28 Mar–11 May (NB, JNW), where up to 5 were seen. Early Orchard Orioles were found near Midway, *Bulloch*, AL 29 Mar (JAT) and in *Choctaw*, MS 1 Apr (ZL), where a new arrival date was set by one day. Early migrant Baltimore Orioles appeared on Dauphin 7 Apr, where 4 were observed (HEH, PR, ZL). A late female Purple Finch was on the Ft. Morgan peninsula 22 Apr (ph. JNe).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Ken Archambault, Rocky Baker, Lar-

ry Barkey, Larry Basden, Fred Bassett, Ned Boyajian, Robert Briscoe, Rob & Gerry Brown, Bala Chennupati, Karen Chiasson, Alice S. Christenson, Roger Clay, Lisa Comer, Bob Crowley, Edie Dellenger, David W. Dortch, John Ehinger, Lawrence F. Gardella, Ben C. Garmon, Jeff T. Garner, David P. George, Chuck Graham, Olivia Graves, Jerry Green, Thomas M. Haggerty, R. Stan Hamilton, Dana C. Hamilton, Greg J. Harber, Terry Hartley, Bert Harris, J. Milton Harris, Geoff E. Hill, Jason Hoeksema, Steve Holzman, Howard E. Horne, Sharon S. Hudgins, Debra G. Jackson, **Greg D. Jackson** (Alabama), Kevin Jackson, Justin Johnson, Odie H. Johnson, Lynne Jones, Michael J. Jordan, Gene Knight, Shannon Knight, Diane Lafferty, Zachary Loman, William Massey, Stewart McCoy, Karen Moore, Sue R. Moske, Janice Neitzel, Jamie Nobles, Wayne Patterson, Ashley Peters, Brittany Peterson, Harold Peterson, Judy Reeves, Van Remsen, Rick J. Remy, Susan Remy, Sam Riffell, Patsy Russo, Martha B. Sargent, Robert R. Sargent, Tom W. Savage, Marion Schiefer, **Terence L. Schiefer** (Mississippi), Maureen Shaffer, Jim Sherrill, Damien J. Simbeck, Bobby & Ann Sims, Eric C. Soehren, Mike & Angie Stahl, Michelle Steber, Jennie Stowers, John Stowers, Bob Strader, Bill Summerour, John A. Trent, Jacob N. Walker, Pullen Watkins, Lorna West, Randy White, Ken Wills, Eric Wilson, Daniel Wright, Harriet H. Wright, Janet Wright. 🌐

Steven W. McConnell, 29 Village Drive NE, Hartselle, Alabama 35640, (swmavocet@aol.com)

Arkansas & Louisiana

Steven W. Cardiff
Dick Baxter

We do not offer much by way of commentary other than to note that, in the absence of widespread severe drought, severe flooding, or massive oil spills, spring 2012 seemed almost normal for a change.

Abbreviations: B.R.A.S.S. (Baton Rouge Audubon Society's Peveto Woods Sanctuary near Johnsons Bayou, *Cameron*, LA); C.F.H. (Centerton Fish Hatchery, near Centerton, *Benton*, AR); C.N.F. (Camp Nine Farm, *Desha*, AR); F.B.W.M.A. (Frog Bayou W.M.A., *Crawford*, AR); R.C.B.W.M.A. (Steve N. Wilson Raft Creek Bottoms W.M.A., *White*, AR); Yates Tract (Yates Tract, Red River N.W.R., *Red River*, LA). Counties/parishes are indicated only for the initial

mention of a specific locality, and states are indicated only for the initial mention of counties/parishes, except to avoid confusion. For records of "review list" species, documentation has been received and records have either been accepted by, or acceptance is pending by, the respective state bird records committee. Significance for Arkansas records is based on *Arkansas Birds, Their Distribution and Abundance* (James and Neal 1986) and the Arkansas Audubon Society online bird record database (for records since 1986). Significance for Louisiana records is based on the bird record card file database and the Louisiana Bird Records Committee archives at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, as well as the most recent draft of the forthcoming *Birds of Louisiana* (Remsen, Cardiff, Dittmann, and Dickson). Additional details and photographs of many of the Louisiana rarities published in





This spectacular Ruff at Saul's Fish Farm, Prairie County, Arkansas 6 April 2012 (lower image), along with a Reeve there 6-7 (here 6) April (upper image), represented about the eighth and ninth occurrences for the county. Photographs by Dick Baxter.

this summary can be found in the Louisiana Bird Records Committee 2012 and 2013 Annual Online Newsletters at <<http://losbird.org/lbrc/lbrc.htm>>.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck continues to increase and spread across the Region, but the 21 n. of Humnoke on 24 Apr (DB, KN) and the 2-6 near Lonoke 12-19 May (Steve Morgan, Robert Morgan) made the first records for fish-farm-heavy Lonoke; one at D'Arbonne L. 26 May (Gerry Click) may have been a first for Union in n.-cen. Louisiana. Ten Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at the traditional nesting site at C.N.F. 4 May (DB) were the only ones reported from Arkansas this spring. Discovery of a Canada Goose nest with eggs at Donna I. in the relatively remote Atchafalaya Delta W.M.A., St. Mary 24 Mar (Brendan Caillouet, Frank Rohwer) was intriguing; introduced/feral birds are patchily distributed to the w. in the Rockefeller Refuge area of Cameron/Vermilion but have not been previously reported on the outer coast e. of Vermilion Bay. Reports of ad. male Cinnamon Teal included singles n. of Kaplan, Vermilion 6 Mar and s. of Rayne, Acadia 7 Mar

(both ph. PEC) and Crawford's first at FB.W.M.A. 25 Mar (JCN). Up to 26 Lesser Scaup at Cameron 25 May made a good count for such a late date; also late were 2 at Kincaid L., Rapides 21 May (both JVH). The observation of a rare Long-tailed Duck near Johnsons Bayou, Cameron, LA 24 Mar (JVH, EIJ et al.) was followed by sightings to the e. at Cameron 31 Mar-12 Apr (ph. Danny M. Dobbs, JVH, ph. Michael J. Musumecche, ph. TF), up

to 3 there 28-29 Apr (DBo, ph. PEC), and at least one present there 5-25 May (PAW, JVH). Surf Scoters were present in good numbers in Cameron, with up to 36 in the Cameron-Holly Beach area 6-9 Apr (ph. PEC), up to 26 there as late as 6 May (PAW), and one at Rutherford Beach 13 May (ph. EIJ). Reports of White-winged Scoter, Louisiana's rarest scoter species, all from Cameron, included one off Holly Beach 31 Mar (PEC), a well-documented male there 6-22 Apr (ph. PEC, JVH), and a possible 3rd individual also present 9 Apr (PEC, JVH). Cameron also produced a few Black Scoters, including 2 at Holly Beach 31 Mar (PEC), 3 there 6 May (PAW), and one at Rutherford Beach 22 Apr (ph. RT).

At Kincaid L., a Red-breasted Merganser 2 May and 2 Ruddy Ducks 21 May (JVH) were rare late-spring finds for the interior.

Seventy-five Common Loons on n. L. Pontchartrain at Mandeville, St. Tammany 10 Mar (JVH) was an impressive count; one at Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge, LA 4-17 May (Michelle Bond, ph. JaP) was late and unusual for the area. A Western/Clark's Grebe at L. Dardanelle, Yell, AR 24 Mar (K&LN) was too distant to be identified to species; Clark's Grebe remains unrecorded in the Region, whereas Western is nearly annual. A very rare bird anywhere in Arkansas, a Glossy Ibis identified at FB.W.M.A. 24 May (JoP, DOu) represented a first for Crawford as well as for the Arkansas R. valley. Still noteworthy, although becoming more regular in the interior, White-faced Ibis reported from Arkansas this season included one very early at Overflow N.W.R., Ashley 1 Mar (BS), one at Bald Knob N.W.R. 4 Apr (K&LN), and up to 24 at FB.W.M.A. 10 Apr-26 May (BB, JCN, JiN, DOu, JoP). Also of interest in nw. Arkansas was an unidentified Plegadis at C.F.H. 20 Apr (MAM). A Northern Harrier at the Rainey Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, Vermilion, LA 22 May (EIJ) was very late, especially for the immediate coast. A sizeable aggregation

for Arkansas, 12 Swainson's Hawks were seen near Kibler, Crawford 11 Apr (JCN); although the species is now bordering on fairly common in sw. Louisiana, 9 at a plowed field n. of Kaplan 24 Apr (PEC) was also a good count. The subad. White-tailed Hawk found near Bell City, Calcasieu, LA in late Feb was last observed 3 Mar (ph. DJR). The 50 Soras seen 5 May at R.C.B.W.M.A. (K&LN) made for a new Arkansas high count for the spring season. Common Gallinules are local in e. and s. Arkansas, but they are very rarely seen elsewhere in the state. Thus, one at FB.W.M.A. 18 Apr (ph. JCN) was an unexpected find. Rare in Arkansas, 7 Sandhill Cranes seen flying over Overflow N.W.R., Ashley 1 Mar (BS) were most likely spring migrants.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Two Arkansas reports of Black-bellied Plover, a species rare in spring in the Region's far interior, were of 5 at R.C.B.W.M.A. 3 May (KN) and 2 at C.N.F. 9 May (DB). The 1592 American Golden-Plovers tallied near Kibler 24 Mar (JCN, BB, Toka Beall, Joan Reynolds) established a new high count for the Arkansas R. valley. Interesting more-or-less "inland" reports of American Avocets included 70 at Bayou Sauvage N.W.R. 25 Mar (good count for Orleans area; PAW), one at Yates Tract (rare interior spring migrant, record early for nw. Louisiana; ph. JT), and 2 at Bonnet Carré Spillway, St. Charles, LA 17 May (MW). A good showing of Willets in Arkansas generated seven reports, with maxima of 24 at C.F.H. 20 Apr (MAM, Stephanie Sawyer) and 26 at the L. Dardanelle Dam, Yell 27 Apr (K&LN). A relatively scarce bird in spring, especially away from the immediate sw. coast, a Long-billed Curlew was spotted near Vinton, Calcasieu, LA 30 Apr (DBo). Hudsonian Godwits were scarce during spring 2012; in Arkansas, there were only three reports of singles: at Anderson's Fish Farm, Lonoke 17 Apr (K&LN), n. of Humnoke 20 Apr (DB, KN), and at Treadway's Fish Farm, Prairie 29 Apr (DB, AL). Less than annual in spring in Arkansas,



Another rare shorebird produced by the east-central Arkansas minnow farms this spring was this female Red-necked Phalarope at Anderson's Fish Farm, Lonoke County on 11 May 2012. Photograph by Dick Baxter.



One of two individuals wintering at Lake Dardanelle, Yell County, Arkansas, this first-cycle Glaucous Gull was last observed 10 March 2012 (here). Photograph by Charles Mills.

a Marbled Godwit was along the Arkansas R. near EB.W.M.A. 21 Apr (BB, JCN, JIN). The ad. male Ruddy Turnstone spotted by Least Tern surveyors near Buck I., Phillips 17 May (Garrick Dugger, Josh Green, Erin Leone, Karen Rowe) was the only Arkansas report of the season; 130 slightly inland in farmland in se. *Vermilion* 22 May (JVH) made an excellent count away from the immediate coast. Fifteen early Semipalmated Sandpipers were near Holly Beach 24 Mar (ph. DP), and 2 more were at nearby Cameron the next day (ph. PEC). Two Dunlins at Yates Tract 2 Apr (ph. JT) tied the local early spring date. A highlight of the annual sw. Louisiana shorebird census conducted 5 May was the remarkable number of Buff-breasted Sandpipers encountered, including 520 (340 in one field) counted by one party in extreme w. *Lafayette* (WW, Heather Mancuso, CGB, Pam Morgan), and a whopping 1128 (1000 in one field) found by another party in s. *Jefferson Davis* (SWC, DLD); each of these area totals surpassed the previous all-time high count for the state. The season's vagrant shorebird honors go to the Ruff and Reeve at Saul's Fish Farm, *Prairie* 6 Apr (ph. DB, KN); the Reeve was also seen the next day. Incredibly, there have now been 9 individuals of this species identified in *Prairie* since 1999. A huge concentration of 6264 Long-billed Dowitchers in the Lonoke area 6 Apr (DB, KN) made one of the highest counts ever for the state. Another rare and record-early shorebird for nw. Louisiana was a Wilson's Phalarope at Yates Tract 2 Apr (ph. JT); one in non-breeding plumage near Welsh, *Jefferson Davis* 4 Mar (JVR) may have wintered in the area. Always a good find in the Region, a female Red-necked Phalarope was studied at Anderson's Fish Farm 11 May (ph. DB, AF).

Generally rare inland in spring, 28 Franklin's Gulls reported at L. Dardanelle, *Pope/Yell* 27 Apr (K&LN) was an excellent count; also of interest was a single near Vinton 30 Apr (DBO). An ad. Bonaparte's Gull at Anderson's Fish Farm 11 May (ph. DB, AF) was the latest ever for Arkansas. The ad. Thayer's Gull, 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and one of the first-winter Glaucous Gulls wintering at L. Dardanelle lin-

gered through at least 10 Mar (K&LN, ph. CM). Two more first-year Glaucous Gulls were noted sporadically at the Holly Beach-Cameron area 17 Mar+ (ph. DP, JVH, ph. MME, ph. TF, ph. JaP, ph. JT, ph. MW, ph. PEC, EIJ); photographs suggest that just one individual may have been involved 27 Apr+. An ad. Great Black-backed Gull at Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, LA 18 Mar (PAW, ph. Robert D. Purrington) furnished the only report. A Common Tern associating with Forster's and Least Terns at C.N.F. 4 May (DB) was the only one reported inland this spring.

One of the season's major surprises was a well-documented **Band-tailed Pigeon** using feeders in a *Lafayette*, *Lafayette*, LA yard 22 Apr (ph. Chester Young); this was just the 8th or 9th confirmed for the state (only the 5th backed by firm evidence), just the 2nd from the spring season and the first unequivocal record for sw. Louisiana. Two Inca Doves, found near some isolated houses along Whiskey Bay Rd., *St. Martin* 4 May (Cesar Sanchez), were apparently the first observed at this well-birded location smack in the middle of Louisiana's vast Atchafalaya Basin Swamp. The Burrowing Owl wintering near Johnsons Bayou was last observed 13-14 Mar (WW); another encountered at Holly Beach 12 May (ph. PEC, PAW), whether a transient or lingering winterer, was remarkably late. Single Lesser Nighthawks at B.R.A.S.S. 6 & 28 Apr (both ph. PEC) were the only ones reported. Two Eastern Whip-poor-wills wintering near St. Gabriel, *Iberville*, LA continued into early Mar with, amazingly, up to 4 present 13-15 Mar and then none detected thereafter (DLD, SWC, m.ob.). An **Anna's Hummingbird** excited residents near Jesseville, *Garland* during its brief stay 18 Mar (ph. Carol, Rachel, & Rebecca Allen); there are about 10 prior records for Arkansas. Rare coastal-zone Red-

headed Woodpeckers were sighted at New Orleans 6 Apr (GO) and at Johnsons Bayou 28 Apr (MW).

PASSERINES

As many as 4 Olive-sided Flycatchers in extreme sw. *Cameron* 11-12 May (PAW) represented a good showing for spring. Four Willow Flycatchers at Bossier City, *Bossier* 28 May (JVH, Terry Davis), including a female attending a nest, were at one of the only reliable breeding locations for the species in Louisiana. An Eastern Phoebe at B.R.A.S.S. 5 Apr (Will Lewis) was extremely late for the immediate coast, and one near St. Gabriel 10 Apr (DLD) was also late for Louisiana's s. interior. A Say's Phoebe was a great find near Harris Brake L., *Perry*, AR 21 Mar (ph. Justin Brand); remarkably, none of the two-dozen individuals found in the Region during the preceding fall-winter were reported to have lingered into the spring season. The resident pair of Great Kiskadees was accounted for at White Lake Wetland C.A. lodge 19 Apr (JVH). The 2 **Tropical Kingbirds** wintering near Braithwaite, upper *Plaquemines*, LA were observed as late as 7 (ph. MME) & 9 Mar (JVH). A Couch's Kingbird was well documented at Oak Grove, *Cameron* 11 May (ph. PEC).

A very late Blue-headed Vireo was found at B.R.A.S.S. 12-13 May (ph. TF, ph. PEC, PAW). A very rare migrant through se. Louisiana, a Warbling Vireo was at Grand Isle 21 Apr (Noah Reid), and it or another was seen in a different patch of woods there 22 Apr (EIJ). Now becoming almost annual, a Yellow-green Vireo was confirmed at B.R.A.S.S. 9-12 May (JVH, ph. PEC, ph. BMM). Black-whiskered Vireos were reported at Grand Isle, which produces the vast majority of Louisiana's records, 15 Apr (Evan Tanner), 3 May (ph. Dan O'Malley), and 9 May (SWC, ph. DLD). A massive swarm of Tree Swallows estimated at **one million** individuals was witnessed moving northward past the w. side of Rockefeller Refuge, *Cameron*, LA 31 Mar (John Dillon). A pair of nesting Tree



Leucistic tyrannids turn up infrequently. This strikingly plumaged partially leucistic Eastern Kingbird was an exciting find near Kaplan, Vermilion Parish, Louisiana 29 April 2012. Photograph by Erik I. Johnson.





The lucky photographer was the sole observer of this Townsend's Solitaire at Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish 19 April 2012. Just the third to be found in Louisiana, it was also the first record for southeastern Louisiana and the first of a spring migrant. Photograph by Tony Barnes.



During a field trip to look for a Lark Bunting seen in the same general area, this second individual was discovered south of Lacassine in Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana, about 13 kilometers to the southwest of the first bird, on 10 March 2012. Photograph by Glenn F. Seeholzer.

Swallows at Bickham Dickson Park, Shreveport, Caddo 5 May (ph. Bill Wood) added to the growing number of breeding records for Louisiana; another suspected territorial pair was at Cotile L., Rapides, LA (a known breeding site) 10 May (JVH). Breeding Cave Swallows are rapidly spreading across sw. Louisiana w. of the Atchafalaya Basin, but 2 gathering nest mud and associating with a mixed Barn Swallow and Cliff Swallow colony along the sw. edge of L. Pontchartrain at I-10 over Bonnet Carré Spillway 14 Mar (also early; CGB) and a possible "scout" at a Cliff Swallow colony at Ramah, Iberville 26 Apr (ph. EIJ) were more unusual e. of the Atchafalaya.

Well s. of the expected breeding distribution in Louisiana, a pair of White-breasted Nuthatches seen off and on in a Baton Rouge neighborhood since spring 2011 was confirmed nesting in a bluebird nest box 11 Mar (ph. Charles Williams). A Marsh Wren was an unexpected visitor at Bluebonnet Swamp Nature

Center, Baton Rouge 13 May (ph. John Hartgerink). Another shocker of spring 2012 was a **Townsend's Solitaire** at Grand Isle 19 Apr (ph. Tony Barnes), just the 3rd for Louisiana, the first for the se., and the state's first record of a spring migrant. A cooperative Sprague's Pipit at R.C.B.W.M.A. 25 Apr (KN) was not only a first for White but the latest ever in spring for the state. A Swainson's Warbler heard singing in the vicinity of Bayou Iatt, Kisatchie N.F., s. Winn and 4 in n. Grant 28 Mar (Kim Eckert, John Trochet, Bob Russell) were record early for Louisiana's n. interior. Rare-in-spring Black-throated Blue Warblers (all males) appeared at Algiers, Orleans 18 Apr (Thomas W. Sherry), Grand Isle 20 Apr (PAW, JVH), and B.R.A.S.S. 6 May (JVH, PAW). A late Yellow-rumped Warbler was at Bickham Dickson Park 12 May (JT, Jean Trahan). A Black-throated Green Warbler at B.R.A.S.S. 31 Mar (PEC) was relatively early; interestingly, the species tends to show up earlier in the interior than on the coast. Two Prairie Warblers at Grand Isle 18 Apr (ph. GO) were presumably rare spring coastal migrants rather than winterers.

At least a few of the dozens of Green-tailed Towhees that invaded Louisiana Oct 2011 through Feb 2012 lingered into the spring period, including a "new" individual near Abita Springs, St. Tammany 4 Mar (ph. MMe, ph. Janine Robin), one near Lacassine, Jefferson Davis originally reported 19 Feb that remained until 24 Mar (ph. DJR, ph. EIJ), and another at B.R.A.S.S. 24 Mar (ph. BMM, JVH) that possibly could have been the bird reported there 14 Jan (Larry Basden). Also surprising considering the numbers reported during the preceding fall-winter, a Spotted Towhee in Jackson 25 Mar (ph. SLP) was the only individual detected during the spring season. A singing Bachman's Sparrow in rural Logan 30 Apr (DB, AL, KN) provided a first county record, farther n. than expected for w. Arkansas. The single Clay-colored Sparrow at Woolsey Wet Prairie near Fayetteville, Washington 10 Apr (MAM) tied the record early spring date for Arkansas; one at B.R.A.S.S. 6 May (JVH) was fairly late for this scarce spring migrant. The **Lark Bunting** found 19 Feb near Lacassine was last observed 13 Mar (ph. DJR, ph. Gary Broussard, JVH); amazingly, a second presumed wintering individual was located about 13 km away s. of Lacassine 10 Mar (ph. GFS). There were two Arkansas reports of Nelson's Sparrow, including one in typical habitat at FB.W.M.A. 14 May (JCN), the other found dead after a window collision on Magazine Mt., Logan 17 May (DSi). A Song Sparrow near Rockefeller Refuge headquarters 22 Apr (vt. RT) was exceptionally late for the coastal zone.

Male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Monroe,

Ouachita 15-17 Apr (ph. SLP) and at Oak Grove, West Carroll 16 Apr (Roselie Overby) were early for Louisiana's n. interior. Five migrant Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at C.FH. 1 May (MAM, JCN et al.). In Louisiana, the species was decidedly scarcer than in recent springs, with 5 near Sweet Lake, Cameron 22 Apr (PEC) and one at Baton Rouge 28 Apr (Jared Wolfe) being the only reports. A Rusty Blackbird in extreme se. St. Martin 8 Apr (GFS) was very late for this species in Louisiana. A (presumed returnee) territorial male Boat-tailed Grackle was initially detected at s. Baton Rouge 5 Apr, then not seen again until 24 Apr, and was then reliable through the remainder of the period (SWC, DLD); on 20 May, 2 ad. females and 2 recently fledged juvs. were also present (ph. JVR). Two male Shiny Cowbirds near Venice, lower Plaquemines 7 Mar (ph. MMe) were either very early spring arrivals or possibly wintering in the area; there are no previous well-documented winter records of the species in Louisiana. Noteworthy reports of Bronzed Cowbirds came from Plaquemine, Iberville 26 Mar-10 Apr (ph. Dan Mooney), Pecan I., Vermilion 13 May (ph. EIJ), and Rainey Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary 23 May (EIJ).

The bird of the season, perhaps the bird of the year, was a **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** of the interior subspecies group (*tephrocotis*) found atop the highest point in the Region, Magazine Mt., Logan, AR 6-9 May (ph. DSi, ph. CM, ph. DB, m.ob.). A male Red Crossbill visited feeders at Hobbs S.P., Benton 8-9 Apr (David Oakley, JCN). Arkansas's 3rd **Lesser Goldfinch**, a black-backed ad. male, turned up at a feeder in Highfill, Benton 9-12 May (Joyce Shedell, ph. Dan Scheiman).

Initialed observers (subregional editors boldfaced): **Dick Baxter** (Arkansas), Bill Beall, Devin Bosler (DBo), Christopher G. Brantley, **Steven W. Cardiff** (Louisiana), Paul E. Conover, Donna L. Dittmann, Tom Finnie, Allison Fowler, Jay V. Huner, Erik I. Johnson, Adam Leslie, Mary Mehaffey (MMe), Charles Mills, Michael A. Mlodinow (MAM), B. Mac Myers III, Joseph C. Neal, Jim Neiting (JiN), Kenny Nichols, LaDonna Nichols, David Ouellette (DOu), Glenn Ousset, Stephen L. Pagans, Jane Patterson (JaP), Joanie Patterson (JoP), Dave Patton, J. V. Remsen, David J. Ringer, Bobby Schat, Glenn F. Seeholzer, Don Simons (DSi), Ryan Terrill, Jeff Trahan, Phillip A. Wallace, Melvin Weber, Walker Wilson. ☘

Steven W. Cardiff, (Louisiana), Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803-3216, (scardif@gmail.com)
Dick Baxter, (Arkansas), 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205, (dickbaxter100@gmail.com)



WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Turkey Vulture has become annual in the Northern Canada region only in recent years; this one was nicely documented at Partridge Creek Farm, central Yukon 29 April 2012. Photograph by Michael Buerge.

ported from Yellowknife, NWT 19 May (VSG), Hay River, NWT 29 May (ph. GV), and Teslin, s. Yukon 30 May–mid-Jun (MG; ph. AS). A Great Horned Owl, of the pale gray subspecies, was seen at Inuvik, NWT 31 May (ph. AG). A much-admired Snowy Owl that spent the winter eating muskrats at Johnson's Crossing, s. Yukon was unfortunately found predated 23 Mar (MiC, JC; ph. AS). One was seen at the Belcher Is., NU 23 Mar (PI, MJ, JK, JP); while the first of the season at Victor Bay, NU was seen 6 May (CK); and another Snowy was at Kugajuk, NU 20 May (CK, TK). A Barred Owl, possibly a returning bird from 2010, was at Albert Cr., se. Yukon 19 Apr (SD). A Great Gray Owl was seen at Old Crow, n. Yukon 23 Mar (DF). A male Rufous Hummingbird, rare in s. Yukon, was seen at the Takhini R. 21 May (BC). Pileated Woodpecker still has a foothold in the Watson Lake area, se. Yukon: one was at Albert Cr. 16 Apr (MaC).

A Steller's Jay was at Wolf Cr., s. Yukon 16 Mar (ph. JH), and another was seen at Fish L., s. Yukon 5 May (IM). American Crow continued its northward expansion this spring, with one reaching Partridge Cr., cen. Yukon 8 May (DB, ph MB, VB). A Cliff Swallow was reported from Rankin Inlet, NU 13 May (JCA). Two Northern Wheatears were seen at Sylvia Grinnell Park, NU 30 May (PI, MJ, JK, JP). Mountain Bluebird reaches the edge of its range in the Dawson area, cen. Yukon; one was at the airport there 17 May (MM), and another was seen in the area 27 May (CC); farther n., one was reported from Inuvik, NWT 24 Apr (KH).

A Smith's Longspur was traveling with Laplands at Ft. Simpson, NWT 18 May (DT); 2 Smith's were seen at the Yukon Wildlife Preserve, s. Yukon 23 May (MW, CW). Palm Warbler reaches the edge of its range in w. Northwest Territories; singles were reported from Yellowknife 11 May (RH) and 26 May (VSG). A Western Tanager, w. of its regular range, was at Judas Cr., s. Yukon 21 May (MCo). The Yukon's first **Spotted Towhee**, a singing male, was at Shallow Bay, s. Yukon late Apr–6 May (ph. CB, MD; m.ob.). A huge flock of 300 American Tree Sparrows was at Shallow Bay, s. Yukon 24 Apr (CE, PS). A Le Conte's Sparrow



The Yukon's first Spotted Towhee sang on territory at Shallow Bay from late April 2012 through at least 6 May (here). Photograph by Cameron Eckert.

was reported from Yellowknife, NWT 26 May (VSG). Reports of Harris's Sparrow included 6 at Yellowknife, NWT 19 May (VSG) and one at Watson Lake, se. Yukon 28 May (ph. JJ). A massive flock of 272 White-crowned Sparrows was seen along the Aishihik Rd., sw. Yukon 16 May (RR); a flock of 120 was at Watson Lake, se. Yukon the same day (SD). A male Oregon Junco was at Porter Creek, s. Yukon 24 Apr (ph. CE, PS); a female was at nearby McIntyre Cr. 4 May (ph. BSc).

A male Yellow-headed Blackbird, casual in s. Yukon, first seen in Teslin 14 May (ph. BC) remained in the area for several weeks (JC, ph. MiC). Rusty Blackbird populations continue to decline; a flock of 300 at the s. end of L. Laberge, s. Yukon 1 May (CE) was especially noteworthy. Ten Common Grackles, at the edge of their range, arrived at Hay River, NWT in the last week of Apr (GV). Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch reports included a bird of the coastal subspecies group (*littoralis*) at Ft. Smith, NWT 28 Mar (SI, ph. MV); singles at Tagish, s. Yukon 28 Mar (ph. SVD) and Yellowknife, NWT 12 Apr (ph. SC) were of the interior (*tephrocotis*) subspecies group, and another was at Watson Lake, se. Yukon 17 May (SD). A flock of 25 White-winged Crossbills was seen at Old Crow, n. Yukon 6 Mar (LS). Seventy-three Hoary Redpolls were tallied at Uluksa Pt., NU 9 Apr (CK).

Observers (subregional editors in boldface): Julia Ahlgren, Katie Aitken, Del Buerge, Michael Buerge, Virginia Buerge, Brodie Calef, Suzanne Carriere, Corey Cartright, Jim Clarke, Matt Clarke (MaC), Minnie Clarke (MiC), Mark Connor (MCo), Johanne Coutu-Autut, Boris Dobrowolsky, Marianne Douglas, Susan Drury, **Cameron Eckert** (Yukon), Chris Finch, David Frost, Sabrina Garcia, Margaret Garolitz, David Gendron, Alex Gray, Teresa Griffith, Helmut Grünberg, Chad Gubala, Jim Hawkings, Kevin Hildahl, Reid Hildebrandt, Tom Hince, David Hodgkinson, Pualsie Ippak, Sharon Irwin, Mike Janssen, Jukka Jantunen, Romy Janssen, Sebastian Jones, **Clare Kines** (Nunavut), Travis Kines, Mary-Jones Kriterdluk, Johnny Kudluarok, Craig Machtans, Ian McDougall, John Meikle (JMe), Melissa Meier, Joelle Moses (JMo), Ted Murphy-Kelly, Paul Pratt, Jennifer Provencher, Robyn Rufange, Vicki St. Germaine, Ben Schonewille (BSc), Adam Skrutkowski, Pam Sinclair, Leila Sumi, Betty Sutton (BSu), **Douglas Tate** (Northwest Territories), Brian Uher-Koch, Shyloh van Delft, Mike Vassal, Mary Whitley, Chris Wilkinson, Keith Williams, Stu Withers, Gary Vizniowski, Devon Yacura, Brian Zawadski. ☉

Cameron D. Eckert, 1402 Elm Street, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 4B6, (cdeckert@northwestel.net)



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Rudolf F. Koes
Peter Taylor

Saskatchewan and Manitoba experienced freakishly warm temperatures in March, and the winter's modest snow accumulation melted early. With the warm weather came numerous record-early migrants. April and May saw much cooler weather, with copious amounts of rain (or even snow) in May ending concerns about possible drought. Alberta was rather uniformly cool, while the whole Region was very windy. After the initial influx of birds, the migration slowed considerably. Observed raptor migration in southern Manitoba was dismal; it is likely that the birds spread out over a broad area, rather than following river valleys. Shorebird numbers were generally low, as were those of many passerines, especially in southern Manitoba. Alberta hosted a few extreme rarities.

GEESE THROUGH GULLS

Thousands of Snow Geese were observed in southbound flight at considerable height at Brandon, MB 20 Apr (CC), likely having found conditions too wintry farther north. Trumpeter Swan reports have become so numerous in Manitoba that they hardly warrant mention any more; they included a number of breeding records. Tundra Swans peaked at 4544 near The Pas, MB 15 Apr (JK). A Eurasian Wigeon at Cypress L., SK 25 Apr (AH) was a rare find; in Alberta, where the species is more regular, there were at least 32 birds (*fide* TK). A Cinnamon Teal at Whitewater L., MB 29 May was rare (HL et al.), as were single Eurasian Teal near Blackie, AB 15 Apr and near Shepard, AB 22 Apr (both TK, ph.). Counts of 110 and 40 Greater Scaup near Stavely, AB 1 Apr (TK) were high. A male Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser hybrid was a nice find at Oak Hammock Marsh, MB 15 May (RK), while an apparent Common Merganser x Red-breasted Merganser was photographed at Fish Creek P.P., AB 19 May (TK).

A Yellow-billed Loon was at Cold L., AB 24 May (TH). Regina, SK hosted a lone Cattle Egret 4-5 May (RD, m.ob.); 3 were at the same

location 26 May (PH, m.ob.). At Frank L., AB, 200+ White-faced Ibis were noted 13 & 20 May (PL; MG), while 4 were near Estevan, SK 12 May (KH), 2 were at Francis L., SK 26 May (AH), and Whitewater L. had the usual reports. A Red-shouldered Hawk at St. Adolphe 16 Mar (AC et al.), a Ferruginous Hawk at Windygates, MB 20 Apr (BS), and a tardy Gyrfalcon at Whitewater L. 23 May (CC et al.) were the most notable diurnal raptors.

Among the few notable shorebird reports were 369 Black-bellied Plovers near Strathmore, AB 25 May (D&LF), 2 Black-necked Stilts in the Whitewater L. area in late May (PF), 800+ Lesser Yellowlegs near Chestermere L., AB 29 Apr (TK), an exceptionally early peep, believed to be a Baird's Sandpiper, at Oak Hammock Marsh 19 Mar (BB), and 18 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, including lekking birds, at Whitewater L. 22 May (CC et al.). Black-necked Stilts were also noted at three Saskatchewan locations: 2 at Cypress Lake 26 Apr (AH), 3 at Herbert 13-14 May (JP), and 2 at Meachum 31 May (SS). A flock of 40 Sabine's Gulls passed through Calgary 26 May (TK); singles were at Langdon, AB (IP) and Regina (BL) on the same date. A Mew Gull at Regina 1 Apr was rare (RD, m.ob.), as was a California Gull near Ste. Anne, MB 30 Mar (VR). Also noteworthy were an Iceland Gull of the expected subspecies *kumlieni* at Regina's Wascana L. 11 Apr (SW, BL) and another, plus an apparent *glaucooides* Iceland Gull, at Calgary 14 May (TK). There were at least 5 Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the Calgary area and 4 in Saskatchewan (m.ob.). A Slaty-backed Gull lingered at Regina 1 Apr-2 May (BL, SW, m.ob.). At least 14 Glaucous Gulls were noted through the period in the Calgary area, an unprecedented number in a single season (TK et al.), while 5 were noted in Saskatchewan. The PR 227 dump near Portage la

Prairie, MB attracted a Great Black-backed Gull 20 May (RK, Nature Manitoba).

OWLS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

Snowy Owls continued their good showing after the winter. Thirty-one were seen s. of Regina 19 Mar (BL), while birds lingered in s. Alberta and s. Manitoba until early to mid-May. After



Although more regular in Alberta than elsewhere in the Prairie Provinces, Eurasian Teal remains a very rare subspecies there. This male was found near Shepard, Alberta on 22 April 2012. Photograph by Terry Korozyk.



This duck at Fish Creek Provincial Park, Alberta on 19 May 2012 was thought to be a Common Merganser x Red-breasted Merganser hybrid, a combination rarely if ever documented. Photograph by Terry Korozyk.



This Slaty-backed Gull (left, with wings outstretched) at Regina 1 (here 3) April through 2 May 2012 made about the fifth well-documented record of the species for Saskatchewan. Photograph by Kim Mann.



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PRAIRIE PROVINCES



As the breeding ranges of Eastern Towhee and Spotted Towhee meet in southwestern Manitoba, occasional hybrids are expected there. This male sang on territory in the Portage Sandhills at least 17-24 (here 24) May 2012. Photograph by Garry Budyk.



Alberta's first White-eyed Vireo was found at Wyndham-Carseland Provincial Park, Alberta on 21 May 2012. Photograph by Nick Bartok.

several years of scarcity, Great Gray Owl numbers increased in se. Manitoba. Jim Duncan reported one of the best breeding seasons in his long-running study near Hadashville, while individuals popped up in many other locations. Tallies of 25+ Short-eared Owls at Beaverhill L., AB 9 Mar (GR) and 9 Northern Saw-whet Owls at Calgary 1 Apr (IP) were high. A Chimney Swift at Regina 28 May was well w. of its normal range (BL). A Black-chinned Hummingbird at Mountainview, AB 23 May (NW) provided one of only a handful of records for the province. Out-of-range woodpeckers in Alberta included a Lewis's at Calgary 29 May (DC), lone Red-heads at Elkwater 28 May (LT) and near Medicine Hat 29 May (MF), and the long-staying Red-bellied at High River, last seen in late Mar.

A Western Kingbird at La Rivière, MB 31 Mar (CC) was early by more than a month. Alberta hosted its first White-eyed Vireo on 21 May (NB, RB, ph.), when one was seen and pho-

tographed at Wyndham-Carseland P.P. Two concentrations of 10,000 swallows apiece, mainly Tree and Bank, were at Fish Creek P.P., AB (GY et al.) and at Frank L. (GW), both in late May. The former flock included 30 Violet-green Swallows (GY et al.). An early Sedge Wren was at Grant's L., MB 26 Apr (KAG). A Curve-billed Thrasher, apparently the 2nd for Alberta, was well described at Wyndham-Carseland P.P. 14 May (MC, JS).

Warbler migration was uneventful Regionwide. Early arrivals in Manitoba included 4 Palm Warblers near Brandon 31 Mar

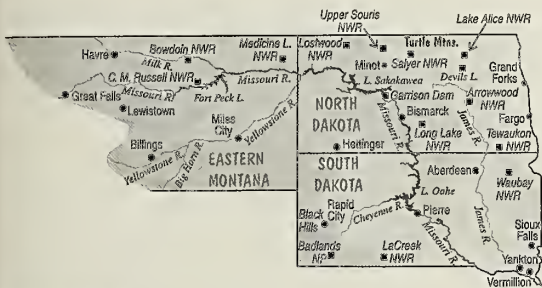
(MR, MY) and single Common Yellowthroats at Pinawa 21 Apr (PT) and near The Pas 22 Apr (JK). Northern Parulas at Souris R., MB 22 May (KDS) and at Regina 26 May (BL) were far west. A heard-only Hooded Warbler near Ste. Anne was rare (VR). Regina hosted a Summer Tanager 23-25 May (BL, m.ob.), Saskatoon attracted a Scarlet Tanager 8-9 May (RS), and a Western Tanager was s. of Brandon 3 May (T&RW). Two other Western Tanagers in e. Manitoba in late May were apparently photographed, but no details are known. A late-May Indigo Bunting at Calgary (RW) was far west.

A Spotted Towhee at Winnipeg 2 May was seen by many (AM et al.); a Spotted Towhee x Eastern Towhee hybrid sang at the Portage Hills, MB 17 & 24 May (GB, ph.). A mile-long swarm of Snow Buntings e. of Stead, MB 18 Mar was estimated at 20,000 birds (PT). Bobolinks were reported as being unusually common in w. Alberta, with as many as 15 birds in one location in May (IM). A Yellow-headed Blackbird at St. Adolphe 20 Mar (AC) was extremely early.

Observers (provincial compilers in boldface): B. Barnett, N. Bartok, R. Baxter, G. Budyk, M. Coughlin, A. Courcelles, C. Cuthbert, K. DeSmet, R. Dudragne, M. Fai, D. & L. Flynn, P. Friesen, K. Gardner, D. Gastle, M. Gahbauer, A. Hartley, K. Hedegard, T. Hindmarch, P. Hjerntas, J. Kayer, R. Koes, G. Krätzig, T. Korolyk, H. Lane, P. Lehman, B. Luterbach, I. Maton, A. Mickey, I. Povaiyaev, J. Preibe, M. Reid, V. Reimer, G. Romanchuk, S. Shadick, B. Shetler, R. Shirley, J. Sodon, P. Taylor, L. Tirrul, G. Warner, S. Weir, R. Wershler, N. West, T. & R. Will, G. Yaki, M. Yorke. ☺

Rudolf F. Koes, 135 Rossmere Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2K 0G1, (rkoes@mymts.net)

Peter Taylor, P.O. Box 597, Pinawa, Manitoba R0E 1L0, (taylorp@granite.mb.ca)



Ron Martin

The warm, snowless winter continued with record warmth in March. At Fort Peck, Montana, every day of March except 1 March recorded above-average temperatures; record highs were set on four days. Temperatures were 13° F above average for the month in Bismarck, North Dakota, with a high of 81° on 16 March. Unheard of in March, American Elm trees were blooming by the last week of the month. April temperatures were also above average, with precipitation a little above average. April was the tenth consecutive month with above-average temperatures in eastern Montana. May was nearer the average.

These warm temperatures brought almost uncountable early dates for birds across the spectrum. Some were one or two weeks earlier than the previous early dates. However, peak numbers of many species were not spectacular. Warblers were early, following the trend, but numbers were unimpressive. Raptors also made a poor showing. It is likely many birds overflowed the Region in the record warmth.

It is with great sadness that we note the loss of Eve Freeberg of Grand Forks, North Dakota. Eve was undoubtedly the most active birder in North Dakota in the past 20 years. Her almost daily census of Grand Forks area birds was an inspiration to all. Eve was responsible for several first state records, including the first Ross's Gull in North Dakota. She was also a longtime Breeding Bird Survey participant. She was a dedicated reporter to this journal and will be sorely missed.

GEESE THROUGH RAPTORS

A new high count for North Dakota, but not unexpected, 1000 Ross's Geese were estimated in *Stutsman* 26 Mar (JAD); one was late in *Clark*, SD 28 May (BJU). Trumpeter Swans peaked in North Dakota with 5 in *Trail* 22 May (REM). A potential 4th record for North Dakota, a *Garganey* was in *Kidder* 19 May (p.a., JJM, DLR, MA). Surpassing the previous early date by two weeks, a Greater Scaup was in *Grand Forks*, ND 6 Mar (DOL). Casual in spring in the Region, Surf Scoters were in *Cass* 18-20 May (RM) and at *Fargo* 26 May (KRC). The *Harlequin Duck*

that wintered in *Pennington*, SD was last seen 7 Apr (JLB, KM). A *Pied-billed Grebe* in *Grand Forks*, ND 6 Mar (DOL) provided a new early date for the state. A *Horned Grebe* in *Stanley*, SD 14 Mar (DB, RDO) furnished a new early date for the state, and a *Horned Grebe* in *Burleigh*, ND 21 Mar (HCT) was 12 days earlier than the previous record arrival date.

Neotropical Cormorant sightings in South Dakota are on the increase: singles were in *Brule* 27-29 Apr (p.a., JLB, KP, RDO, RM) and *Brown* 18 May (p.a., BJU), the 5th and 6th reports for the state. A *Tricolored Heron* was in *Brown*, SD 16-25 May (GO, RDO); the species has been regular in this area for a few years. Casual in Montana, 3 *Cattle Egrets* were at *Bowdoin N.W.R.* 27 May (SD). The 6th through 9th reports for North Dakota, *Glossy Ibis* were in *Barnes* 18-19 Apr (p.a., TG), in *Dickey* 18 (p.a., JPL, CDE) & 20 May (p.a., DOL, CNN), and in *Kidder* 20 May (p.a., GM). South Dakota reports were from *Brown* 18 Apr (GO, RDO) and *Walworth* 8 May (BJU). A possible 5th record for Montana, a *Glossy Ibis* was near *Bowdoin N.W.R.* 19 May (p.a., SD). A new spring high count for North Dakota, 335 *White-faced Ibis* were in *Dickey* 18 May (CDE, JPL).

Furnishing a first record for South Dakota, a *Black Vulture* was reported in *Custer* 21 Apr (p.a., BJU). Raptor migration was very scattered and unimpressive. Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers were low, and the usual peaks of *Red-tailed Hawks* failed to materialize. Rodent numbers were very low in many areas in North Dakota. A rare spring migrant, a *Red-shouldered Hawk* was at *Devils Lake*, *Ramsey*, ND 16 Mar (JK). A new spring peak for North Dakota, 40 *Swinson's Hawks* were over a burn area at *Arrowwood N.W.R.* 3 May (PRS, SLW). Another new peak for North Dakota, 5 *Peregrine Falcons* were seen migrating along the *Red R.* in *Grand Forks* 2 May (TGD).

RAILS THROUGH OWLS

Virginia Rail numbers were very low this spring in North Dakota after several banner years. Up to 2 *Snowy Plovers* at *Freezout L.*, MT 22-27 May mark the 9th record for the state (p.a., MS). Shorebirds were spectacularly early in the Dakotas. New early dates were recorded in South Dakota for no fewer than 13 species, and 12 species of shorebird were recorded in Mar alone. The highlight of the spring was the state's 5th *Ruff* in *Sully* 12-14 Apr (p.a., RDO, JLB). In North Dakota, five new early dates were recorded in the shorebird group, and eight species were tallied in Mar. A *Solitary Sandpiper* in *Burleigh*, ND 23 (HCT) Mar bested the previous

early date by 20 days. A new high count for North Dakota, 24 *Whimbrels* were in *Sargent* 18 May (SLW, PRS, REM). The high count in Montana was 10 at *Bowdoin N.W.R.* 19 May (SD). If accepted, a *Sharp-tailed Sandpiper* in *Kidder*, ND 20 Apr (p.a., HCT) would furnish the 4th record for the state and the first in spring.

A *Franklin's Gull* at *Fargo*, ND 6 Mar (CMN) was eight days earlier than the previous early date for the state. A *Laughing Gull* at *Pierre*, SD 2-7 Apr (RDO) provided the 11th record for the state. Only the 2nd spring report for North Dakota, an ad. *Iceland Gull* was at *Garrison Dam* 15 Apr (p.a., REM). Nine *Lesser Black-backed Gulls* in North Dakota 20 Mar-24 Apr made an impressive total. The 8th record for Montana, a *Lesser Black-backed Gull* was at *Fort Peck* 29 Mar (CC). Possibly the 2nd record for South Dakota, a *Glaucous-winged Gull* was in *Kingsbury* and *Miner* 18 Apr-2 May (p.a., DC, RDO, SS), and another was at *Fort Peck*, MT 29 Mar-8 Apr (CC); the species is casual in e. Montana. A *Glaucous Gull* at *West Fargo*, ND 12-13 Apr provided the first record for *Cass* (DWR, KRC). A *Caspian Tern* was recorded early 11 Apr in *Stanley*, SD (RDO). A 5th record for South Dakota, an *Arctic Tern* was in *Dewey* 18 May (p.a., BJU).

Making 10th record for South Dakota, a *White-winged Dove* was in *Stanley* 31 Mar-2 Apr (p.a., KM, RDO). *Yellow-billed Cuckoos* made an early showing, with singles 12 May in *Brookings*, SD (JT) and 19 May in *Ransom*, ND (DNS). A *Black-billed Cuckoo* was early 12 May in *Sargent*, ND (MAO). Young *Great Horned Owls* capable of flight in *Grand Forks*, ND 30 Apr would indicate nesting initiation around 1 Feb, a very early date for North Dakota (DOL). Lingered *Snowy Owls* from the winter invasion included a single at *Arrowwood N.W.R.*, ND 4 May (DDM) and one in *Deuel* 7 May (BJU), the latter a first May record for South Dakota. Early *Burrowing Owls* were in *Potter*, SD 15 Mar (BJU) and in *Morton*, ND 30 Mar (HCT).

SWIFTS THROUGH WARBLERS

Record early in South Dakota, a *White-throated Swift* was in *Fall River* 1 Apr (ND). Besting the previous early date by five days, a *Yellow-bellied Sapsucker* was in *Barnes*, ND 23 Mar (JML). A *Yellow-bellied Sapsucker* in *Fall River*, SD 24 Apr (BJU) was well w. of the species' usual path. A *Pileated Woodpecker* in *Sargent*, ND 4 May (MAO) provided a first record for the county.

Casual in South Dakota, a *White-eyed Vireo* was in *Minnehaha* 19-21 May (p.a., DC, RDO). An early *Warbling Vireo* was in *Gregory*, SD 28 Apr (RM). A rare occurrence in Mar, *Tree Swallow*

lows were in Yankton, SD 20 Mar (RND) and in Burleigh, ND 29 Mar (CDE, HCT). A Barn Swallow was the earliest on record for South Dakota in Hughes 4 Apr (RDO). Pacific Wrens were reported 17 Apr in Lawrence and 20 Apr in Pennington, SD (p.a., BJU); the status of this species is still unclear in South Dakota. Setting a new early standard for North Dakota, a Winter Wren was in Grand Forks 18 Mar (DOL). Tying the early date for North Dakota, an Eastern Bluebird was in Ward 27 Feb (SDL). Record early for North Dakota, a Hermit Thrush was at Fargo 23 Mar (GEN). A Sage Thrasher was well ne. of usual range in Hand, SD 16-17 Apr (p.a., DB, RDO, SS). The earliest on record, an American Pipit was in Charles Mix, SD 10 Mar (KP).

Smith's Longspurs were early 12 Apr in Deuel, SD (BSU) and 14 Apr in Steele, ND (REM). A new early record for North Dakota, an Orange-crowned Warbler was found in Grand Forks 14 Apr (SJA). Rare migrants in the Region, single Hooded Warblers were at Fargo, ND 23 May (DPW) and in Day, SD 30 May (BJU). A Mourning Warbler was well w. of typical migration corridors at Bowdoin N.W.R., MT 27 May (SD). The earliest ever for Montana, an American Redstart was at Fort Peck 28 Apr (CC). Pine Warblers in South Dakota included singles in Grant 5 May (BJU) and in Stanley 11 May (RDO). Furnishing the 8th record for North Dakota, a Yellow-throated

Warbler was in Fargo 20 May (p.a., MAO).

TOWHEES THROUGH FINCHES

An Eastern Towhee in Steele, ND 21 Apr (CDE) bested the previous early record by eight days. Likewise, 2 Savannah Sparrows at Chase Lake N.W.R., ND 23 Mar were seven days earlier than the previous early date (MAO). Henslow's Sparrow reports from South Dakota included singles 29 May in Brookings and 31 May in Lyman (RDO). A Le Conte's Sparrow was early 12 Apr in Deuel, SD (BJU). A Black-throated Sparrow in Sheridan, MT 22 Mar-1 Apr provided the 13th record for the state and the first for e. Montana (JR). A Lincoln's Sparrow was early 17 Mar in Lake, SD (JSP). Five Summer Tanagers in South Dakota spanned 5-28 May. North Dakota produced single Summer Tanagers in Barnes 25 Apr-1 May (BAN) and in McLean 31 May (HCT). A Summer Tanager near Chester 21 May (p.a., HM) would provide the 6th record for Montana. About 10 Northern Cardinal territories were estimated at Fargo, ND this spring (DPW). The 9th and 10th reports for Montana, Northern Cardinals were in Richland 15 Apr (p.a., MO) and in Phillips 24 May (p.a., fide TN). A Blue Grosbeak in Custer, SD 30 Apr (BJU) made the first report of this species for Apr. A Lazuli Bunting was well e. of their regular range at Fargo, ND 16 May (MAB).

An Eastern Meadowlark in Brookings, SD 26 Apr was well ne. of the species' usual range in

s.-cen. South Dakota (KCJ). A Bullock's Oriole in Wells, ND 25 Apr (LDS) was not only record early but nearly half a state e. of the species' usual range. Unusual in the Region, 50 Black Rosy-Finches were in Stillwater, MT 8 Apr (ML). A species considered casual at Fort Peck, MT, a Pine Grosbeak was present 14 Mar (CC).

Contributors (state editors in boldface): **MON-TANA:** Charles Carlson, Steve Dinsmore, Mike Lesnik, Harriet Marble, Ted Nordhagen, Mo O'Mara, Jerry Rodriguez, Mike Schwitters. **NORTH DAKOTA:** Marlene Anderson, Sandy J. Aubol, Mary A. Bergen, Keith R. Corliss, Jeff A. Dion, Tim G. Driscoll, Corey D. Ellingson, Terry Gwilliams, Larry D. Jones, Jim Klett, Dave O. Lambeth, Jack P. Lefor, Jean M. Legge, Sherry D. Leslie, Ron E. Martin, Janelle J. Masters, Doris D. Messmer, Roger Moyer, Bob A. Neugebauer, Gary E. Nielsen, Connie M. Norheim, Mark A. Otnes, Dean W. Riemer, Dan L. Rogers, Paulette R. Scherr, Dan N. Svingen, H. Clark Talkington, Stacy L. Whipp, Dennis P. Wiesenborn. **SOUTH DAKOTA:** Doug Backlund, Jocelyn L. Baker, Doug Chapman, Roger N. Dietrich, Nancy Drilling, Kent C. Jensen, Ron Mabie, Kenny Miller, Gary Olson, Ricky D. Olson, Jeffrey S. Palmer, Kelly Preheim, Scott Stoltz, Jason Thiele, Bill J. Unzen. ☉

Ron Martin, 16900 125th Street SE, Sawyer, North Dakota 58781-9284, (jrmartin@srt.com)

Southern Great Plains



Joseph A. Grzybowski
W. Ross Silcock

Uniformity of pattern is hard to come by on the Great Plains, but, with the exception of a few pile-ups in eastern Nebras-

ka, numbers of migrating passerines seemed particularly low this spring, particularly among sparrows and warblers. For warblers, the spring paucity seems to follow a long-term trend of decline; the low number of sparrows is more recent and likely tied to the drought of 2011, particularly extreme in much of Oklahoma and Texas. A few observers complained of having only a three-warbler-species day at peak migration times, though Blackburnian Warblers were found in above-average numbers. Some backyard feeder watchers noticed few migrating sparrows, over 90% fewer than last year in the case of one Oklahoma observer. Inca Doves, almost unreported, may be stepping back from their previous surge as far north as western Kansas. Species such as Least Bittern, King Rail, and Common Gallinule were generally absent across the Region except at Red Slough, while Neotropical Cormorants seemed to be spreading.

Earlier and earlier spring arrivals were also part of a long-term pattern, evident as well in the early nesting of some species in Nebraska

such as Great Blue Heron and Cooper's Hawk. A minor incursion of White-winged Crossbills, the last of the winter's Snowy Owls, and nesting Great Kiskadees in southeastern Oklahoma all made the season memorable.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton, KS); Hefner (L. Hefner, Oklahoma, OK); McCaughy (L. McCaughy Res, Keith, NE); Quivira (Quivira N.W.R., Stafford, KS); Rainwater Basin (playa wetlands in s.-cen. and se. Nebraska); Red Slough (Red Slough W.M.A., McCurtain, OK); Salt Plains (Salt Plains N.W.R., Alfalfa, OK).

DUCKS THROUGH IBISES

Five Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were far afield in Pratt, KS 3 Apr (MR, m.ob.). A Greater White-fronted Goose lingered in Pierce, NE 17 May (LE), as did 11 Snow Geese in Shawnee, KS 24 May (DM). A good tally of 200 Ross's Geese came from Stevens, KS 5 Mar (SS, TC), with an impressive 2250 in Lincoln, NE 14 Mar (TJW).

Two Trumpeter Swans with red neck collars, indicating Iowa releases, were in *Dodge*, NE 2 Mar (JGJ, KS). Tundra Swan is rarely documented in the Region; one was photographed in *Adams*, NE 13 Mar (PD). A Mottled Duck appeared at Red Slough, where rare but regular, 12 Mar (DA). Also early was a Blue-winged Teal in *Douglas*, NE 2 Mar (JR). Cinnamon Teal e. of typical haunts included singles in *Dodge*, NE 26 Mar (KS), *Lancaster*, NE 28 Apr (RSi), *Leavenworth*, KS 1 Mar (JB), and *Tulsa*, OK 15 (PS) & 21-22 Apr (BC). A Green-winged Teal in *Sarpy*, NE 30 May (L&BP) was unexpected for the date and location.

The 150 Canvasbacks in *Coffey*, KS 6 Mar (ML) made a strong count there; stragglers were in *Comanche*, OK 2-8 May (*fide* VF) and at another *Comanche* location 22 May (L&MT). The count of 41 Greater Scaup in *Sedgwick*, KS 4 Mar (PJ) was locally high. Single Surf Scoters were in *Tulsa*, OK 24 Mar (BC), *Sedgwick*, KS 24-28 Mar (KG, JC, CM), *Riley*, KS 31 Mar-22 Apr (ER, m.ob.), and *Meade*, KS 8 Apr (TE). Single White-winged Scoters were in *Clay*, KS 8 Mar (KM, MP), in *Geary*, KS 9 Mar (KM, MP), and at *McConaughy* 10-17 Mar (JGJ, TJW). Single Black Scoters were in *Tulsa*, OK 14 Apr (TM) and in *Lancaster*, NE 21 Apr (LE). Also noteworthy are Long-tailed Ducks; this season, singles were at *Hefner* 2 Mar (CW), in *Jefferson*, KS 25 Mar (JK), and in *Douglas*, NE 13-21 Apr (JR). The last reported Common Mergansers were 4 at *McConaughy* 23 May (LE) and one in *Graham*, KS 12 May (PJ, TR, GC, JM). Tardy Red-breasted Mergansers included one in *Comanche*, OK 11 May (*fide* VF) and 3 at *McConaughy* 22 May (SM).

At the e. edge of Lesser Prairie-Chicken range in Kansas, four leks were located in *Edwards* 13 Mar (MP); 26 males were counted on a lek there 4 May (MP); and 24 were in *Clark* 14 Mar (SS). A Red-throated Loon was at *Hefner* 23 Mar-5 Apr (PV, JAG et al.), and a Pacific Loon was present there 10 Apr (JAG); these species are rare in fall and spring. Still exceptional, a **Yellow-billed Loon** was in *Riley*, KS 5-9 May (LJ). Red-necked Grebes are more likely in Nebraska, where singles were found in *Dodge* 1 May (GR), *Platte* 16 May (ph. LD), and at *McConaughy* 22 May (SM). Early were 2 Western Grebes in *Lancaster*, NE 11 Apr (LE). Rare eastward in Oklahoma, a Western Grebe was in *Tulsa* 27 Mar (JL, PS), and up to 5 were at *Hefner* 6-10 Apr (PV, JH, JAG). The only reports of Clark's Grebe were of 1-3 at *McConaughy* 23-29 May (LE, TJW).

Neotropical Cormorant continues to increase northward in the Region; there were over 20 reports involving a total of at least 18 individuals from all three states (*fide* WRS, LM, MC, JL). Away from Red Slough, where these

cormorants now overwinter, the earliest were singles 5 Mar in *Coffey*, KS (ML) and 12 Mar in *Lancaster*, NE (LE, m.ob.). The only reports of Anhinga were from Red Slough, where expected; 1-4 were there by 15-19 Mar (DA). This season's token Brown Pelican was in *Tulsa*, OK 13-16 Apr (WW et al.). Apparently limited by dry conditions this spring, the only Least Bittern reported away from Red Slough was in *Johnson*, KS 31 May (RW). A Great Egret was early in *Dakota*, NE 22 Mar (BFH). Reports of extralimital herons included a Little Blue Heron in *Buffalo*, NE 29 May (LR, RH), Tricolored Herons at Salt Plains beginning 6 May (2 birds; JLa et al., m.ob.) and Cheyenne Bottoms 8 May (MT, MRo, MA, JB), and an imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in *Lancaster*, NE 13 May (LE). Small numbers of Glossy Ibis and Glossy x White-faced hybrids are now established in *Alfalfa*, OK; single Glossies were at *Hackberry* 22 Apr (L&MT), in *Lancaster*, NE 12-15 May (LE, m.ob.), and in *Dawson*, NE 18-20 May (TJW, DL), with hybrids in *Garfield*, OK 24 Apr (KA), *Seward*, NE 25 Apr (JGJ), and *Alfalfa*, OK 24 May (3 birds; JAG).

VULTURES THROUGH GULLS

Black Vultures continue to expand in the Region, with one quite far afield in *Pawnee*, KS 2 Apr (SS). Ospreys arrived early; one (possibly 2) were in *Sedgwick*, KS 5 Mar (PJ), and one was in *Tulsa*, OK 22 Mar (JS, SJ). **White-tailed Kite** is a Regional rarity, with fewer than a dozen scattered records; one was in *Douglas*, KS 29 May (GP). Very early Mississippi Kites in se. Nebraska included singles in *Sarpy* 14 Apr (RS) and *Douglas* 21 Apr (CNK). A species expanding northward and westward, a Red-shouldered Hawk was in *Lincoln*, NE 11 Mar (TJW); also westerly was a Broad-winged Hawk at *McConaughy* 29 Apr (JGJ). Easterly Ferruginous Hawks were in *Riley*, KS 9 Apr (ER) and *Lancaster*, NE 8 Mar (imm.; LE). A tardy Rough-legged Hawk was in *Clay*, KS 22 Apr (JKe). Crested Caracara is starting to appear along the s.-cen. edges of the Region, with the 2 in *Bryan*, OK through 4 Mar (DW et al.) and one in *Choctaw*, OK 9 Apr (NC). A Merlin in *Thomas*, NE 19 May (D&JP) was tardy. Easterly Prairie Falcons were in *Lancaster*, NE 24 Apr (JCa, SS) and *Dickinson*, KS 14 Apr (CS).

A regular migrant, but difficult to find, a Yellow Rail was in *Johnson*, KS 23 May (JN). Black Rails were found at a traditional Quivira site 21 Apr (EM) and 14 May (2; MR). King Rails were reported only at Red Slough, likely due to drought-induced scarcity of suitable habitat n. of there; now also regular at Red Slough is Purple Gallinule, where 1-5 were seen beginning 22-30 Apr (M&MP, DA et al.). The only Common Gallinule reported away from Red

Slough was in *Linn*, KS 5 May (MC). Breeding Sandhill Cranes continued at several sites in the Nebraska Panhandle and Rainwater Basin (KD, AK, RS), but a new easterly site was found in *Butler* 30 Apr (CNK). A single Whooping Crane appeared with Sandhill Cranes early in *Hall*, NE 6 Mar, departing with them 20 Mar (NP, ph. DAd, RWr). Peak Whooping Crane counts were 19 at Quivira 29 Mar (BJ) and 15 in *Kearney*, NE 6 Apr (MN).

A Black-bellied Plover in *Clay*, NE 16 Mar (ph. PD) was record early, remaining there through 23 Mar (CNK); another was in *Washington*, NE 5 Apr (CNK). The 145 at Quivira 8 May (MT, MRo, JB, MA) made a high tally. Early American Golden-Plovers were in *Bryan*, OK 4 Mar (DW et al.) and the Rainwater Basin 16 Mar (2; PD); excellent counts were reported in the Kansas Flint Hills: 2373 in *Butler* 5 Apr (GY) and 1660 in *Greenwood* 6 Apr (RP); and farther w. in Kansas, notable reports were of 2 in *Hodgeman* 1 Apr (PJ, m.ob.), one in *Gove* 13 May (KG), and 5 in *Ford* 15 May (SS). No Snowy Plovers were reported in Nebraska, somewhat unusual, given that water levels at *McConaughy* were low enough to allow breeding. A **Wilson's Plover** in *Douglas* 19 Apr (tJK) was the 4th for Kansas; there are two Oklahoma records. Rather amazing was the Nebraska record count of 340 Semipalmated Plovers in *Knox* 28 Apr (MB). Piping Plover is a rare migrant in the Region s. of the localized Nebraska breeding areas; reports included 9 at Cheyenne Bottoms 20 Apr (MR), singles in *Alfalfa*, OK 27 Apr (BC) and 7 May (M&MP), and another in *Woodward*, OK 26 Apr (BC). Mountain Plovers were reported only from the traditionally reliable area in *Kimball*, NE: 2 were there 23 May (LE) and another 27 May (RS). Two Black-necked Stilts were early on 31 Mar in *Stevens*, KS (HA); the 130 at Cheyenne Bottoms 8 May (MT, MRo, JB, MA) must have been a sight. Stilts now breed in sw. Oklahoma, with a scattering of records eastward including 3-4 and a nest at Red Slough 21-25 May (DA, BH) and singles in *Sedgwick*, KS 28 May (PJ), *Chase*, KS 24 Apr (MR), and *Saunders*, NE 28 Apr (JGJ).

A Spotted Sandpiper in *Graham*, KS 14 Apr (SS) was rather early, as were 3 Greater Yellowlegs and a Lesser Yellowlegs in *Seward*, NE 2 Mar (JG). At least 28 Whimbrels were reported across the Region (*fide* WRS, MC, LM, JL). The huge numbers of Long-billed Curlews encountered in *Finney* and *Kearney*, KS in recent years continued, with 1800 in *Finney* 31 Mar (PJ, m.ob.) and 360 there 24 Mar (TS, TE). Rare eastward, 20 Long-billed Curlews were in *Johnston*, OK 4 Apr (BA). Large numbers of Hudsonian Godwits pass through Cheyenne Bottoms; up to 650 were there 20-26 Apr (MR). A Hudsonian in *Perkins*, NE 24 May (LE) made

one of fewer than 20 records for the w. half of that state. A record-early Marbled Godwit was in Coffey, KS 26 Mar (ML), and Cheyenne Bottoms produced a record-high count for Kansas of 250 Marbleds 20 Apr (MR). Ruddy Turnstone passes through the Region in a very short May window, with seven reports this season of some 23 birds in the period 9-19 May (*fide* WRS, MC, LM). A record-early Western Sandpiper for Nebraska, one molting into alternate plumage, was photographed in Fillmore 14-16 Mar (JGJ, PD, ph.). The 7000 White-rumped Sandpipers at Salt Plains 24 May (JAG, GH, KW) and 9100 at Cheyenne Bottoms 29 May (JK) made impressive counts. Among early arrivals were a Pectoral Sandpiper in Washington, NE 13 Mar (CNK) and a Stilt Sandpiper in Clay, NE 30 Mar (ph. PD). Nebraska's 3rd winter-record Dunlin was still at McConaughy 17 Mar (TJW). High counts for Stilt Sandpiper included 750 at Cheyenne Bottoms 8 May (MT, MRo, JB, MA) and 2500 at Salt Plains 24 May (JAG, GH, KW). Long-billed Dowitcher numbers were impressive but not unprecedented in cen. Kansas; up to 15,000 were at Cheyenne Bottoms 8-29 Apr (DWi, MR). American Woodcocks arrived in Dodge, NE 3 Mar (2-3 birds; TJW). Red-necked Phalarope is a May migrant that favors the nw. part of the Region; about 30 were reported, with 4 at Red Slough 22-25 May (DA) the southeasternmost, plus one in Sarpy, NE 17 May (L&BP). A female **Red Phalarope** in breeding plumage graced the Salt Plains 24 May (JAG, GH, KW).

A rare spring migrant, a Little Gull was at Cheyenne Bottoms 28 Apr (ML, TSw, WCT). Away from McConaughy, California Gull is a Regional rarity; the only reports were of an ad. in Lancaster, NE 12 Mar (LE) and one in Scotts Bluff, NE 24 Mar (KD). Thayer's Gulls at McConaughy 10-17 Mar (JGJ, PD) and in Oklahoma, OK 12 Mar (BD) made the only reports. Lesser Black-backed Gull is a regular but uncommon spring migrant mid-Feb through late Apr in the n. part of the Region; 4 subads. were at McConaughy 10 Mar (JGJ), and one was in Rooks, KS 19 Apr (JVK). A Glaucous Gull was at Hefner 2 Mar (CW), and Nebraska had three reports 2-17 Mar (TJW, LE, JGJ). Records of Great Black-backed Gull continue to accumulate in the n. portion of the Region; a third-cycle bird was at McConaughy 17 Mar (TJW). A Least Tern in Nemaha, KS 21 May (RR) was a rare local find. Four Common Terns in Cedar, NE 7 May (MB) were early there.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

White-winged Dove has established outposts as far n. as s. Nebraska (*fide* WRS); still rare in e. Oklahoma, one was in Tulsa 24 May (TH). Inca Doves have probably stepped back from

their surge of recent years; reports this season came only from s. Oklahoma in Choctaw 15 Apr (DD) and Pittsburg 13 May (DGr). The paucity of Black-billed Cuckoos in the Region is somewhat alarming; only 2 were reported this season, singles in Graham, KS 11 May (SS) and Richardson, NE 28 May (WRS). Greater Roadrunner continues to consolidate range gains in s.-cen. Kansas, with 1-2 reported from Clark 14-28 Mar (SS), Cowley 15 Mar (MT), and Sedgwick 12 May (*fide* JC). Following the major influx of Snowy Owls this winter, at least 11 made it into Mar and the first few days of Apr, 7 in Kansas (*fide* LM, MC), and 4 in Nebraska (*fide* WRS); however, a serious laggard was the one found alive in Keith, NE 29 May (*fide* JLL, ph. JGJ) that later died in rehabilitation. Long-eared Owl nests erratically in the Region, mostly in the n. half; a pair was found in Dixon, NE 24 Mar, with one downy young seen 12 & 24 May (BFH), and a single was in Polk, NE 23 May (MN). Some 13 Short-eared Owls were reported in Kansas (*fide* MC, LM) and Nebraska (*fide* WRS). Intriguing reports were of 2 singing Northern Saw-whet Owls in Knox and Antelope, NE 23 Mar (MB). Common Poorwills were noted in e. locales such as the Kansas Flint Hills (*fide* MC, LM), as well as Jefferson, NE 7-24 May (WF, LE) and Konza Prairie, Riley, KS (ER). Chuck-will's-widow appeared westward in Nebraska to Jefferson 7 & 24 May (2 birds; WF, LE) and Knox 7 & 17 May (MB, LE). An unidentified whip-poor-will was heard singing in Cimarron, OK 19 May (DRo).

A westerly ad. male Ruby-throated Hummingbird was carefully identified in Scotts Bluff, NE 29 May (KD). As this species and Black-chinned increase on the nw. Great Plains, Nebraska's first record of **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was expected: one photographed in a Scottsbluff greenhouse 7-8 May (MS, KD). In Oklahoma, a Black-chinned Hummingbird was early in Comanche 25 Mar (C&DS), and easterly singles were in Cleveland 16 Apr (NR) and Oklahoma 14 May (TU). An easterly Lewis's Woodpecker was in Gove, KS 11-12 May (PJ), while a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker there 31 Mar (PJ, m.ob.) was westerly. The Acorn Woodpecker present since Jan in Comanche, OK stayed through 15 Apr (SH, m.ob.). Among few Red-naped Sapsucker reports for the Region was one in Sioux, NE 19 Apr (HKH). A Pileated Woodpecker was found in Woodward, OK 25 Mar (*fide* SSe), a westerly outpost.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH LONGSPURS

A Western Wood-Pewee in Gove, KS 11 May (PJ, TR, GC, JM) furnished a first county record. The 70 mostly unidentified *Empidonax* flycatchers in Platte, NE 26 May (TJW) must have made for bewildering birding. At least 3



Nebraska's first documented Black-chinned Hummingbird visited a greenhouse in Scotts Bluff 7 May 2012. Photograph by Marie Smith.

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were in an Omaha, NE park 21-24 May (*fide* WRS); this is a rare (or rarely identified) spring migrant in the Region. Acadian Flycatcher, expanding its range and numbers in the Region, numbered 12 in Richardson, NE 28 May (WRS), with 1-2 in Sarpy and Lancaster that day (*fide* WRS). A westerly Alder Flycatcher was in Custer, NE 20 May (WF, D&JP). A Cordilleran Flycatcher maintained its range in the Pine Ridge country of Sheridan, NE 21 May (LE). A **Gray Flycatcher** was videotaped in a Cimarron, OK yard 3 May (DRo). A Say's Phoebe in Morton, KS 5 Mar (TC, SS, DWg) was early. An array of easterly Say's included 2 at Cheyenne Bottoms 21-25 Mar (*fide* LM, MC) and singles in Pawnee, OK 4 Mar (SMe, GHa) and Johnston, OK through 31 Mar (BA). An Ash-throated Flycatcher in Tillman, OK 7 Apr (L&MT) was early. Perhaps the season's most surprising record was a **Great Kiskadee** at Red Slough 5 May (RSn, m.ob.)—that became a pair 20 May (DA) and remained through the period; Kansas has a single record, and there are only a few previous records for Oklahoma. A Western Kingbird in Lancaster, NE 5 Apr (JJ) was early. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher continues to consolidate its range in s.-cen. Nebraska, where 5 were reported beginning 14 Apr (J&BB, m.ob.); another was n. to Dodge, NE 10 May (D&JP).

Northern Shrike is rare in the s. part of the Region; only 3 were reported from Kansas, singles in Grant 2 Mar (KH, SG), Douglas 4 Mar (CM), and Pottawatomie 15 Mar (TC). Reports of White-eyed Vireo n. and w. of its usual range were of singles in Douglas, NE 30 Apr (JT), Riley, KS 4 May (DM), and Lancaster, NE 13 May (LE). Westerly Yellow-throated Vireos were in Thomas, KS 10 May (PJ, TR, GC, JM) and Loup, NE 19 May (DH). Whether a Plumbeous Vireo in Chadron S.P., Dawes, NE 21 May (LE) was a



This Gray Flycatcher videotaped in a backyard south of Boise City, Cimarron County 3 May was the first fully documented for Oklahoma. Photograph by Dan Robinson.

migrant or breeder is unknown; breeding likely occurs e. to that location but is undocumented. A Warbling Vireo in *Sarpy*, NE 19 Apr (L&BP) was early. Thirteen Philadelphia Vireos were reported from the Omaha area 5-26 May (JR, L&BP, RS, EBe), with others noted in the e. corridor of the Region. Black-billed Magpie was locally extirpated in some areas of Nebraska, likely by West Nile Virus; a refreshing sight was one in *Lincoln* 24 Mar (TJW). Easterly magpies in Nebraska 18 Apr were 2 in *Stanton* and 2 in *Cuming* (WF). Fish Crows invading n.-cen. Oklahoma and s.-cen. Kansas were 2 in *Kay*, OK 12 Apr (GY) and 15-20 in *Sedgwick*, KS 15 Mar (JC); 100+ were noted on an Arkansas R. float trip in *Sedgwick* and *Sumner* (fide MR). Common Raven continued its presence in *Morton*, KS, with 2 seen 6 & 21 Mar (TC, SS, DWg).

A Purple Martin in *Sedgwick*, KS 10 Mar (KG) was on the early side, as were Tree Swallows in *Douglas*, KS 6 Mar (CT) and *Lancaster*, NE 12 Mar (LE). Cave Swallows returning to their lone Oklahoma breeding site in *Comanche* were observed beginning 20 Apr (M&MP, m.ob.). Early Barn Swallows were in *Tulsa*, OK 3-4 Mar (TM, BC) and *Bryan*, OK 4 Mar (DW et al.). A Bewick's Wren at *Quivira* 21 Apr (BJ) was noteworthy, and a House Wren in *Lancaster*, NE 2 Apr (RSt, EB) was nearly record early. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher wandered to *Gove*, KS 11 May (PJ, TR, GC, JM), where a rare migrant. A Mountain Bluebird was easterly and tardy in *Butler*, KS 13 May (GY), as was a Townsend's Solitaire in *Antelope*, NE 28 May (LR, RH). Western Bluebird made another Mar appearance in *Cimarron*, OK, with 7 at two locations 20 (JNL, JRe, JBr) & 21 Mar (DRo). Veeries in the w. part of the Region are likely of the w. subspecies group; reports in-

cluded singles in *Greeley*, KS 10 May (PJ, TR, GC, JM) and *Gove*, KS 11 May (PJ, TR, GC, JM); rare, even in the east, were 4 others from e. Nebraska and e. Kansas 7-28 May (fide WRS, CH, MVH). Westerly Gray-cheeked Thrushes in Kansas included singles in *Ness* 9 May, *Greeley* 10 May, *Gove* 11 May, and *Logan* 11 May (all PJ, TR, GC, JM). Wood Thrushes were westerly in *Sherman*, NE 18-26 (LR, RH) and *Cleveland*, OK 25 May (RG). A Brown Thrasher in *Otoe*, NE 4 Apr (LF, SQ) was early. Extralimital were the 3 Curve-billed Thrashers singing in *Stevens*, KS 1 & 19 Apr (HA, JC). The highest tally of American Pipits was a state record 500+ in *Cowley*, KS 3 Apr (BG). The largest counts of Lapland Longspurs are made in spring, as flocks of migrants coalesce; 10,000 flew over *Dixon*, NE 3 Mar (BFH). A hefty 50+ Smith's Longspurs lingered in *Sumner*, KS 15 Mar (MT), and 3 were in *Anderson*, KS 24 Mar (JK, JB).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Northern Waterthrush in *Sarpy*, NE 19 Apr (L&BP) was nearly record early for the state; also early was a Louisiana Waterthrush 16 Mar in *Washington*, OK (MD). A rare migrant, 7 Golden-winged Warblers were reported, all 4-15 May and from the e. edge of the Region, as expected (fide WRS, LM, MC, JL). Blue-winged Warbler is a Regional rarity: 2 were in *Knox*, NE 18 May (LE), nw. of areas of usual occurrence; 3 were in *Cherokee*, OK 19 Apr and 11 May (M&MP, MD, AV), where the species is a rare breeder; and one migrant was singing in *Tulsa* 3 May (JAG, JWA). Uncommon in w. Kansas, a Black-and-white Warbler was in *Graham* 3 May (SS). A far westerly Worm-eating Warbler met a window and ill fate in *Texas*, OK 15 Apr (RRa). The only reports of Swainson's Warbler were from its usual site in *McCurtain*, OK; 2 were there 22 Apr (M&MP). A Tennessee Warbler was a rare westerly find in *Cotton*, OK 11 May (VF). An Orange-crowned Warbler in *Douglas*, NE 1 Apr (JJ) was record early for the state, and a Nashville Warbler in *McCurtain*, OK 1 Apr (CB et al.) was early. Connecticut Warblers, rare finds in the Region, were in *Osage*, OK 10 May (JLa, THo) and *Platte*, NE 26 May (TJW). A Mourning Warbler was westerly in *Thomas*, KS 10 May (PJ, TR, GC, JM). Pushing the edges of their ranges were a Kentucky Warbler in *Saline*, KS 30 Apr (RH) and single Hooded Warblers in *Sarpy*, NE 3 May (JR), *Cherokee*, OK 20 May (BC), and *Sedgwick*, KS

20 May (JC). American Redstarts can occur in large numbers during migration; 60+ were in *Leavenworth*, KS 13 May (JSc). The only report of the Regionally rare Cape May Warbler was of one in *Douglas*, KS 13 May (JK, WCT). The very local Cerulean Warbler was found in *Sarpy*, NE 5 May (pair, RS) and 26 May (2 birds; JR, NRA), with others in *Cherokee*, OK 11 & 19 May (TM et al.) and *Richardson*, NE 26 May (WRS, GJJ), all on their remnant range-edge. A Northern Parula was westerly in *Comanche*, OK 29 Apr (K&SM), as were Magnolia Warblers in *Ellsworth*, KS 11 May (DK, MR), in *Canadian*, OK 15 May (JBa), in *Comanche*, OK 13 May (2; fide VF), and at *Quivira* 13 May (fide BJ). A Black-throated Green Warbler was w. of usual in *Cotton*, OK 11 May (VF). A Townsend's Warbler, a very rare spring migrant, was found in *Texas*, OK 30 Apr (M&MD). Only 6 Bay-breasted Warblers were reported along the e. edge of the Region 9-14 May (fide LM, MC, JL); another was westerly at *Cheyenne Bottoms* 12 May (MR). There were more reports than usual of Blackburnian Warbler, and thus more westerly reports, most notably singles in *Ness*,



On 20-21 (here 21) March 2012, seven Western Bluebirds were tallied in areas west of Boise City, Cimarron County by two birding parties. Very few Western Bluebirds are recorded in Oklahoma. Photograph by Dan Robinson.



This young male White-winged Crossbill appeared at a feeder in Ogallala, Keith County, Nebraska 26 March 2012. Photograph by Jim Oschner.

KS 9 May (PJ, TR, GC, JM) and *Comanche*, OK 12 May (DG). Yellow-throated Warblers returned to *Cleveland*, OK 24 Mar–15 May (1–2; RG et al.) and *Alfalfa*, OK 27 Apr and 24 May (BC & JAG), both westerly outposts. Yellow-breasted Chat may be recolonizing parts of ne. Nebraska: one was in *Dodge* 24 May (D&JP), 3 in *Knox* 5 May (MB), and one in *Antelope* 28 May (LR, RH).

An easterly wintering Green-tailed Towhee remained in *Johnston*, OK through at least 4 Mar (JW et al.). Both Eastern and Spotted Towhee song types and phenotypes were noted in cen. Nebraska in *Seward* 12 May (JG) and *Wheeler* 28 Apr (LR, RH). An Eastern Towhee was westerly in *Scott*, KS 12 May (HA, JVK). Cassin's Sparrow has been reported n. and e. of its traditional range in recent years; this season's notable reports came from *Logan*, KS 11 May (PJ, TR, GC, JM), *Chase*, NE 24 May (LE), *Reno*, KS 28 May (PJ), and *Keith*, NE 29 May (TJW). Rufous-crowned Sparrow is spotty but locally common in w. Oklahoma; an unexpected northerly bird was in *Russell*, KS 5–26 May (fide MR). A Chipping Sparrow was early in *Fillmore*, NE 3 Mar (JRI), and a Clay-colored Sparrow was record early in *Keamey*, NE 28 Mar (WF). A Brewer's Sparrow was easterly in *Gove*, KS 11 May (PJ, TR, GC, JM). A Field Sparrow arrived early 10 Mar in *Sarpy*, NE (CHe). Early or wintering was a Lark Sparrow in *Bryan*, OK 4 Mar (DW et al.). Lark Buntings were easterly in *Franklin*, NE 12 May (KS) and *Canadian*, OK 30 Apr (NH, MF). The 16 Henslow's Sparrows found in *Anderson*, KS 30 Mar (JK, BB) were early.

Outlier Summer Tanagers were in *Gove*, KS 11 May (PJ, TR, GC, JM), *Cheyenne*, NE 17 May (AS), *Custer*, NE 19 May (MB, TJW), and *Reno*, KS 20 May (PJ). A Scarlet Tanager in *Comanche*, OK 8 May (VF) was westerly. The 80 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in *Sarpy*, NE 3 May (JR) made a record Nebraska spring count; 31

in *Richardson* 28 May (WRS) was an indication of the density of this species as a breeder in e. Nebraska. Westerly Rose-breasteds were in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 11 May (AK) and *Comanche*, OK 29 Apr–1 May (K&SM), while an easterly Black-headed was in *Riley*, KS 5 May (LJ). In recent years, Lazuli Bunting has become a regular migrant in low numbers along the e. edge of the Region; this spring, there were eight such reports, beginning 28 Apr, from all three states (fide WRS, LM, MC, JL). An Indigo Bunting in *Nemaha*, NE 19 Apr (LF, SQ) was nearly record early for Nebraska. Typical of early Yellow-headed Blackbirds, one was part of a mixed blackbird flock in *Leavenworth*, KS 2 Mar (JB). White-winged Crossbills are not regular visitors to the Region. Observers carefully checking stands of White Spruce in *Dakota*, NE found 4–5 White-winged on 1 Mar (BFH), 20–25 on 4 Mar (BFH, DL, TL), and 2 on 11 Mar (JR); a young male was at a *Keith*, NE feeder 26 Mar (ph. JO).

Cited observers (state compilers in boldface): NEBRASKA: Darren Addy (DAD), Elaine Bachel, Elliott Bedows (EBe), Jesse & Betsy Bolli, Mark Brogie, John Carlini (JCa), Kathy DeLara, Lauren Dinan, Paul Dunbar, Larry Einemann, Larry Falk, William Flack, Joe Gubanyi, Robin Harding, Carr Heaney (CHe), Dave Heidt, Helen K. Hughson, Bill F. Huser, Jan Johnson, Joel G. Jorgensen, Alice Kenitz, Clem N. Klaphake, Jeanine L. Lackey, Dan Leger, Tucker Lutter, Steve Morris, Marsha Nyffeler, Jim Ochsner, Loren & Babs Padelford, Don & Jan Paseka, Neva Pruess, Susan Quinn, Lanny Randolph, Neal Ratzlaff (NRa), Juanita Rice (JRI), Justin Rink, Gary Roberts, Rick Schmid, Shari Schwartz (SSc), W. Ross Silcock, Kent Skaggs, Marie Smith, Ruth Stearns (RSt), Audrey Sterkel, Jerry Toll, T.J. Walker, Rick Wright (RWrt). KANSAS: Michael Anderson, Henry Armknecht, John Bollin, Bill Busby,

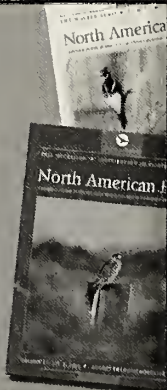
Ted Cable, Jeff Calhoun, Glenn Caspers, Will Chatfield-Taylor (WCT), Mark Corder, Tom Ewert, Bob Gress, Kevin Groeneweg, Sam Guy, Kellye Hart, Robert Highgate (RHt), Chris Hobbs, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Barry Jones, Jeff Keating (JKe), Jonathan King, Dave Klema, Mark Land, Jim Malcolm, Ethan Maynard, Kathy McDowell, Cheryl Miller, Lloyd Moore, Dan Mulhern, Jay Newton, Gerry Parkinson, Robert Penner, Marie Plinsky, Mike Rader, Ed Raynor, Trent Reed, Mark Robbins (MRo), Rosella Royer, John Schukman (JSc), Cheryl Scoby, Scott Selman, Tom Shane, Terry Swope (TSw), Chris Taylor, Max Thompson, Jonathan Vande Koppie (JVK), Mark Van Horn (MVH), David Wiggins (DWg), Dave Williams (DWI), Rodney Wright, Gene Young. OKLAHOMA: Bill Adams, Kent Andersson, David Arbour, James W. Arterburn, Jim Bates (JBa), Jacque Brown (JBr), Chris Butler, Bill Carrell, Nathan Carter, David Dearing, Mike & MerryLynn Denny, Bill Diffin, Melinda Droege, Vic Fazio, Max Fuller, David Gagne, Dennis Graham (DGr), Joseph A. Grzybowski, Richard Gunn, Garry Harritt (GHa), Jason Heinen, Glen Hensley, Neeland Hill, Steve Hodge, Torre Hovick (THo), Todd Humphrey, Sandy Jones, Joseph Lautenbach (JLa), Jo Loyd, Kurt & Sharon Meisenzahl, Steve Metz (SMe), Terry Mitchell, Joe Neal (JNi), Mark & Mary Peterson, Rachelle Randell (RRa), Nancy Reed, Joan Reynolds (JRe), Dan Robinson (DRo), Patricia Seibert, Sue Selman (SSe), Jana Singletary, Richard Stanton (RSn), Carol & Dennis Stayer, Lou & Mary Truex, Terri Underhill, Pat Velte, Antoinette Verne, Ken Williams, Warren Williams, Chris Wood, Doug Wood, Jimmy Woodard, Gene Young. ☺

Joseph A. Grzybowski, 715 Elmwood Drive, Norman, Oklahoma 72072, (j_grzybowski@sbcglobal.net)
W. Ross Silcock, P.O. Box 57, Tabor, Iowa 51673, (silcock@rosssilcock.com)



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Spring 2012 exhibited an odd mosaic when it came to weather and the availability of food and shelter for birds. In the west, the Trans-Pecos, Panhandle, and South Plains continued to have dry to very dry conditions. With extremely dry soil moistures to contend with, even the rain that did fall in these regions was not sufficient for the vegetation to respond quickly. Not surprisingly, populations of resident birds appear to be depressed. In stark contrast, Rasmussen reports that 1 December 2011 through 15 April 2012 was the wettest period ever recorded for north-central Texas. This lessened the drought and allowed reservoirs to reach pool levels—but, amazingly, the remainder of the spring season was the driest ever recorded in that region. Elsewhere in the state, the Upper Coast received near-normal rainfall, and there was enough precipitation in South Texas for the region to move out of Extreme Drought conditions.

The Upper Texas Coast was the place to be for vagrants this season. This was highlighted by three Black-whiskered Vireos as well as the state's potential first Tropical Mockingbird at Sabine Woods. The latter sparked a lively debate about its provenance as it entertained visitors. The exceptional number of wintering sparrows on the Upper Texas Coast spilled over into spring, with record-late or nearly record-late dates noted for many species. Elsewhere in the state, the occurrence of Red-billed Pigeon, Clay-colored Thrush, and Rufous-capped Warbler on the Edwards Plateau raised eyebrows.

WATERFOWL THROUGH STORKS

A high count of 240 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks was made at Bryan Beach, *Brazoria* 5 May (RW). Two Greater White-fronted Geese at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 1 May (BZ, KZ) were late, as was a Snow Goose there 10-23 May (JS). The

wintering Brant continued at Canyon, *Randall* until 31 Mar (†ST, m.ob.). A male Cinnamon Teal lingered through the period at *Brazoria* N.W.R., *Brazoria* (RW et al.); there is no previous summer record for the Upper Texas Coast (hereafter, U.T.C.). Farther e. than expected, a Cinnamon Teal was at L. Bob Sandlin, *Titus* 3 Mar (PB, DeS). Late was a Greater Scaup at Slaton, *Lubbock* 12 May (SBe, CaC); 40+ at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 31 Mar (TG) made a high count for the U.T.C. Five Surf Scoters were at Port Bolivar, *Galveston* 13-17 Apr (DDo, KHa); one lingered at the Quintana Jetty, *Brazoria* 6 May (ph. MSL, CeR, MGr et al.). Single White-winged Scoters were at Port Bolivar, *Galveston* 29 Mar-23 Apr (TK, AF et al.), at Quintana, *Brazoria* 6 Apr (CBR), and in *Jefferson* 25 Apr (SiG). The only Long-tailed Duck reported was at Texas City, *Galveston* 27 Apr (LM et al.). A Common Goldeneye lingered at Temple, *Bell* 13-18 Apr (RPi). A late Red-breasted Merganser on L. Belton, *Bell* 10 May was joined by 3 others the following day (ph. GE); also late were 4 at Sabine Mining Company, *Harrison* 10 May (PB) and 3 at L. Bob Sandlin, *Titus* 13 May (DB, LB).

Two Red-throated Loons were at Offat's Bayou, *Galveston* 23 Mar-7 Apr (JKe, JF, DB, LB et al.). As many as 3 Pacific Loons were also at Offat's Bayou 23 Mar-16 Apr, with one present until 8 May (JKe, DPe et al.); one at L. Buchanan, *Llano* 8 May (ph. TF) was also late. The 225+ Common Loons at Offat's Bayou, *Galveston* 23 Mar (JKe) made an excellent spring total. Four Least Grebes were at Beaumont, *Jefferson* 3 Mar (SM); singles were at Brazos Bend S.P., *Fort Bend* 5 Mar-5 Apr (FF et al.), *Anahuac* N.W.R., *Chambers* 5-12 Mar (DL), and the Katy Prairie, *Waller* 29 Apr (CM, BH). Seven Horned Grebes were nice finds for the upper coast at McFaddin N.W.R., *Jefferson* 3 Mar (SM) and at *Pleasure I.*, *Jefferson* 4 Mar (SM). Two of the 4 wintering Western Grebes at L. Casa Blanca, *Laredo*, *Webb* stayed throughout the season (SFo, RD). Two flamingos seen at the Nine Mile Hole, *Kenedy* 16 Mar (DN) were probably our old friend, HDNT, an American Flamingo (banded in Yucatán with leg band reading "HDNT"), and the Greater Flamingo that escaped from the zoo in Segdwick, KS. Two Wood Storks at Brazos Bend S.P., *Fort Bend* 7 Apr furnished an exceptional spring record there (ph. TW).

FRIGATEBIRDS THROUGH RAPTORS

The earliest Magnificent Frigatebird of the season was at *Galveston*, *Galveston* 30 Mar (FC, KK, MiK, SK). A lingering Northern Gannet was at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 23 Apr (AF). A sign of increasing numbers inland, 5 Neotropical Cormorants at Skeen Playa, *Lynn* 1 May dwindled to one by 12 May (SBe, CaC, SCO).

A count of 8 Anhingas was unusually high for spring at Richland Creek W.M.A., *Freestone* 10 May (CSH, HHa, MSy). Once unusual, now fairly common at some inland locations, 2 Brown Pelicans were among 486 American White Pelicans at the L. Livingston spillway, *Polk/San Jacinto* 26 Mar (BN). American Bitterns were in good numbers in the e. portions of Texas, with up to 4 at Bryan, *Brazos* 25 Mar-6 Apr (DSc, SSc, HBa, JoB et al.), one at *Pleasure Acres L.*, *Smith* 16 Apr (MBI), and another at the e. edge of *Smith* 22 Apr (PB). Surprising inland in the spring, a Reddish Egret was below Longhorn Dam, *Travis* 20 May+ (NE, m.ob.). Black-crowned Night-Herons made a few mid-spring appearances in e.-cen. Texas, including 6 in arid *Lee* 14 Apr (HBr). Single Glossy Ibis were present at Temple, *Bell* (RPi) and Hornsby Bend, *Travis* (KA), both 15 May.

An Osprey at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 25 May (BZ) was locally late. Late and off course was a Swallow-tailed Kite near Granger L., *Williamson* 5 May (JL, KHO); more unexpected was one just outside Bentsen S.P., *Hidalgo* 20 May (ph. BiS). Unexpected in the Panhandle, a White-tailed Kite was at Canyon, *Randall* 7 Apr (ph. PR); one at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* 18 Mar+ (JS) did not appear to be breeding. A Mississippi Kite at Dumas, *Moore* 9 Apr (CSt, m.ob.) was very early; out-of-place singles were at Marathon, *Brewster* 18 May (HT, MY) and Cottonwood Campground, *Big Bend* N.P., *Brewster* 21 May (MF). A Bald Eagle was studied at Devils River S.N.A., *Val Verde* 15-17 Apr (ML, CSH). A Harris's Hawk was unexpected at L. Bastrop, *Bastrop* 14 Apr (ph. JL); three nesting pairs were documented near the TTU Rangeland, *Lubbock* through the period (AnH, ph. m.ob.), an increase from only one pair breeding the four prior years. Two Red-shouldered Hawks were unexpected at White River L., *Crosby* 27 May (MCa, AnH). Westerly Broad-winged Hawks included singles at Rio Grande Village, *Big Bend* N.P., *Brewster* 14 Apr (JA), a dark morph at El Paso, *El Paso* 15 Apr (JiP), another there 16 Apr (JiP), and one at Sierra Blanca, *Hudspeth* 29 Apr (JiP). A pair nesting at Round Rock, *Williamson* 5 May+ (TF) added to the increasing numbers in cen. Texas. A pair of Gray Hawks was nest building at Del Rio, *Val Verde* 5 Apr+ (ph. SSo). A Short-tailed Hawk was seen over Utopia, *Uvalde* 14 Apr (†MHe). A White-tailed Hawk near Utey, *Bastrop* 3 Mar (BF) was a surprise visitor. A Zone-tailed Hawk was at Dog Canyon, *Guadalupe Mountains* N.P., *Culberson* 5 May (ph. ML), where the species is rarely reported. A Ferruginous Hawk was just w. of San Luis Pass, *Galveston* 31 Mar (TG). The wintering Rough-legged Hawk present near Cavazos Cr., *Aransas* was last reported 31 Mar (TG). A Crested Cara-

cara was far w. at Fort Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 13 Mar (JiP), the first in the El Paso area in recent years. A Prairie Falcon was near Sebastian, *Cameron* 29 Mar (RA).

RAILS THROUGH JAEGER

Extremely rare for the area, a high count of 10 King Rails was at John Bunker Sands Wetlands, *Kaufman* 8 Apr (RR). Very late were 300 Sandhill Cranes in *Parker* 10 May (TDu). Nine flyby Whooping Cranes at Temple, *Bell* 1 Apr (ph. RPi) was certainly one of the largest migrating groups seen in Texas in modern times. Three American Golden-Plovers at Skeen Playa, *Lynn* 28 Apr (SBe, AvH, CLR) made a great find for the South Plains. A Semipalmated Plover at Fort Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 25-26 May (ph. BZ) was late. A Solitary Sandpiper at Iraan, *Pecos* 19 Mar (AnH) may have wintered at this rarely visited location. An amazing 62 Willets at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* and 23 more at Fort Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 29 Apr (ph. JiP) made for a remarkable one-day total for the Trans-Pecos. Whimbrels farther w. than expected included one at Balmorhea, *Reeves* 24 Apr (DH, ph. LW) and another at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 29 Apr (ph. JiP). A Ruddy Turnstone at John Bunker Sands Wetland, *Kaufman* 28 Apr (RR, m.ob.) was rare for the spring season. A stunning **Surfbird** was enjoyed by many at the Packery Channel jetties, *Nueces* 22 Mar-1 Apr (ph. JHo, †m.ob.). Much more expected as a fall migrant in the Trans-Pecos, 10 Sanderlings were at Fort Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 5 May (JKi), with 11 there on 13 May (ph. JiP), and 3 lingering until at least 6 Jun (ph. BZ). One Sanderling was at Balmorhea, *Reeves* 26 May (ML). More common in the fall, but rare and regular in spring, a Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Fort Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 25-26 May (ph. BZ). One White-rumped Sandpiper at Fort Hancock Res. 19 May (ph. JiP) increased to 6 on 25 May (ph. BZ), providing a 2nd *Hudspeth* record. Two White-rumped were at Balmorhea, *Reeves* 22-25 May (DH, ph. ML). A **Purple Sandpiper** in basic plumage was found on North Padre I., *Nueces* 28 Mar (ph., †MCo, DMu). Four vocalizing Short-billed Dowitchers at Skeen Playa, *Lynn* 4 May (SCo) furnished a rare westerly record. Two late Wilson's Snipe were seen at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 6 May (BiT), with one still there 17 May (JHe). A lingering American Woodcock was at Houston, *Harris* 22 Mar (CTL et al.). More regular in fall than spring, a Red-necked Phalarope was near Riveria, *Kleberg* 30 Apr (GP), another at the Hart Stock Ponds, *Castro* 12 May (BrS), and 2 at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 25 May (BZ). A basic-plumaged Red Phalarope was found on North Padre I., *Nueces* 1 Apr (ph. GH, MGu).

Lingering Bonaparte's Gulls were at Offat's

Bayou and Rollover Pass, *Galveston* 24 Apr (AF). Up to 4 Little Gulls frequented White Rock L., *Dallas* at various times from 13 Feb through 19 Mar (ph. ChR, m.ob.); others were at Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant* 1 Mar (GC, ph. BTo, m.ob.), Port Aransas, *Nueces* continuing until 9 Mar (ph. LK, JKr), and the Lynchburg Ferry, *Harris* 14 Apr (ad.; ph., †GPa). A single Laughing Gull was found at L. Grapevine, *Tarrant* 13 May (SGI, GC, DMO); farther w., an ad. was at Fort Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 29 Apr (ph. JiP). A first-cycle California Gull was at White Rock L., *Dallas* 3 Mar (RR); a late bird was at Fort Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 1 May (BZ, KZ). One of the wintering *Brazoria* Thayer's Gulls was last seen 21 Apr at the Quintana Jetty (RW, CBe). Five Lesser Black-backed Gulls were still at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 22 Apr (CW, JeB); a late bird was at Quintana, *Brazoria* 18 May (FC, KK, LMR). A Glaucous Gull frequented the Brownsville dump, *Cameron* 3-28 Mar (MRE, MGu); others were at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 31 Mar (TG) and at Texas City Preserve, *Galveston* 25 Apr (PK, ph. NR). Six ad. Least Terns and at least two nests were observed at Greenbelt L., *Donley* 27 May (IO). Common Terns are far less than annual in Central Texas, so 3 during the season was noteworthy: at Decker L., *Travis* 22 Apr (PSu, ph. m.ob.), Belton L., *Bell* 6-15 May (ph. RPi), and Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 15 May (PSu). Two Common Terns at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 26 May (ML) were unusual for spring and a good find. The only jaeger reported this spring on the U.T.C. was an ad. Pomarine seen flying past the Surfside Jetty, *Brazoria* 1 Mar (RW).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A **Red-billed Pigeon** near Lost Maples S.N.A., *Real* 10-12 Apr (ph. TDa) provided a first documented record for the Hill Country. A Band-tailed Pigeon visited El Paso, *El Paso* 20 May (HJ). White-tipped Doves were noted n. of the expected range, with 2 at Devils River S.N.A., *Val Verde* 12-13 May (BF, ML, KB, TG), up to 4 at Chalk Bluff Park, *Nueces* 24 May+ (TDa et al.), and one in n. *Uvalde* 26 May (CeR et al.). A Black-billed Cuckoo at Packery Channel, *Nueces* 21 Apr (MCo) represents one of the earliest dates for the species in the Coastal Bend. An Elf Owl found perched in the daytime at Del Rio, *Val Verde* 17 Mar (ph. KG) was a neat find. Of note was a Long-eared Owl near the Plano Outdoor Learning Center, *Collin* 17 Mar (ph. PA). Extremely rare for n.-cen. Texas, a Common Poorwill was heard at L. Throckmorton, *Throckmorton* 6 May (GC, SGI, DMO). A Chuck-will's-widow seen at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 27 May was the latest ever for the U.T.C. (RW). A probable Mexican Whip-poor-will was reported from Lubbock, *Lubbock* 27 Apr (AnH).

A Green Violetear put in a brief appearance in sw. Austin, *Travis* 12 May (†MBu, †KA). A Black-chinned Hummingbird fledged one young at Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 3 May (PHo, BF), providing a county first. Single Black-chinneds were reported from *Rusk* 3 & 7 May (PHa). Very unusual as a spring migrant, a male Calliope Hummingbird visited the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* 8 May (ph. ME, MEa). A pair of Green Kingfishers discovered along the Lampasas R. below Stillhouse Hollow Res., *Bell* 18 Mar (ph. RPi) would end up nesting in early Apr, a county first. The popular Lewis's Woodpecker at Junction, *Kimble* continued from the winter until 22 Apr (RH, m.ob.); another Lewis's was just ne. of Hondo, *Medina* 4 Apr (ph. BLA). The 2 Lewis's Woodpeckers that wintered at the Independence Creek Preserve, *Terrell* were last reported on 11 Mar (ph. Sfa). Well out of range was an Acorn Woodpecker at Midland, *Midland* 24 Mar (ph. MN); another was at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 15 May (JCL). A female Golden-fronted Woodpecker photographed at Texas Point N.W.R., *Jefferson* 12 Mar was just the 2nd for U.T.C. (ph. JMi). What was likely the same bird showed up nearby at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 18 May+ (ph. HSt, SM et al.). A male woodpecker believed to be a Golden-fronted Woodpecker x Red-bellied Woodpecker hybrid was photographed at Sabine Woods 25 Apr (ph. BrT) and remained through the period (HSt, SM et al.). Rather late was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in far s. *Real* 27 May (ph. MGr). A Ladder-backed Woodpecker seen at High I., *Galveston* 24 Apr (ND) was farther e. than normal. Hairy Woodpeckers were reported from Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 21 Apr (PHa et al.) and 26 May (AP, JaP).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

An Eastern Wood-Pewee was at Buffalo Springs L., *Lubbock* 8 May (CaC). An Alder Flycatcher at Coleman Park, *Terry* 18 May (CaC, SCo, ph.) provided the 2nd record for the South Plains. Well-described Willow Flycatchers were detected at several U.T.C. locations this spring, including a calling bird at Snow Woods, *Brazoria* 14 May (RW) and a singing bird at Houston, *Harris* 16 May (CTL). The U.T.C.'s first **Hammond's Flycatcher** was photographed at Kleb Woods, *Harris* 21-25 Apr (ph. KK, MiK, SK). Explorations of Dog Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains N.P., *Culberson* turned up 20+ Gray Flycatchers 5 May+ (ph. ML), documenting nesting for the first time in that range. A Cordilleran/Pacific-slope Flycatcher in far nw. *Kinney* 14 May (ph. BF) was an unexpected migrant away from the Trans-Pecos. A Buff-breasted Flycatcher was in the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 26 Apr+ (PSz, ph., †ML). It was an exceptional spring for Dusky-capped Fly-



Yellow-throated Vireos wandered westward into the Trans-Pecos of Texas in spring 2012, with four discovered at scattered locations, including this one in the Christmas Mountains of Brewster County 2-6 (here 6) May. Photograph by Carolyn Ohl-Johnson.

catcher in West Texas: one was at Boot Spring, Big Bend N.P., Brewster 2-8 May (ML), with another reported nearby along the Pinnacles Trail 12 May (TDa). These were outshone by 12+ on territories at four locations in the Davis Mountains Preserve, Jeff Davis 12 May+ (RKO, ML). A late Ash-throated Flycatcher was at Sabine Woods, Jefferson 1-2 May (SiG). A Brown-crested Flycatcher returned to Austin, Travis 21 Apr+ (EC, m.ob.) and was joined by another, and nesting was suspected. A pair of Great Kiskadees at Devils River S.N.A., Val Verde 12-17 Apr (ML) was at the n. edge of the species' range. A vocalizing Tropical Kingbird was present along the Nueces R. near Uvalde, Uvalde 25-27 Apr (KR, TLe, MI). Another vocalizing Tropical Kingbird was present in downtown Corpus Christi, Nueces 25 May (EC), and nesting was soon discovered. A pair of Couch's Kingbirds was again present at Devils River S.N.A., Val Verde 12-17 Apr (ML). At least one Couch's returned to San Saba, San Saba 21 Apr (ph. ByS), where the species nested the previous year. Wandering Cassin's Kingbirds were in Kinney, with one in the far nw. corner of the county 12 May (BF) and another at Kickapoo Caverns S.P. 14 May (BC). A pair on territory

near Fort Hancock, Hudspeth 23 May+ (BZ) was unexpected at that low elevation, and another was reported 14 km e. of the Pecos R., Val Verde 27 May (ph. EF). Unusual so far s. in the park, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend N.P., Brewster 21 May (MF). The wintering Rose-throated Becard at Estero Llano Grande S.P., Hidalgo stayed throughout the spring (HHu, †m.ob.).

A White-eyed Vireo was at Lubbock, Lubbock 20-22 Apr (JCL, m.ob.). A Bell's Vireo was at L. McClellan, Gray 12 May (BrS). Slightly out of place and late was a Black-capped Vireo near Cibolo, Guadalupe 21-25 May (SS, m.ob.). Male and female Black-capped Vireos were found in Somervell 20 May (GC, SGI). Single Yellow-throated Vireos popped up at scattered locations across the Trans-Pecos: Christmas Mts., Brewster 2-6 May (ph. COJ), an I-10 rest area in e. Pecos 6 May (CG, ph. DoS), Alamito Creek Preserve, Presidio 10 May (SWi), and Davis Mountains S.P. 25 May (MW); others

were at L. Tahoka, Lynn 28 Apr (SBe et al.) and Lubbock 8 May (CaC, SCo). Hutton's Vireos continue to increase their presence in Central Texas; a new locale was L. Georgetown, Williamson, where one was present 30 Mar-1 Apr (PSu, ph. ByS). A Hutton's present all season near Cibolo, Guadalupe was joined by another, and a nest was found in early May (SS, m.ob.). A Yellow-green Vireo was n. to High I., Galveston 19-27 Apr (ph. LS et al.); another reached Port Aransas, Nueces 16 May (JMc). Black-whiskered Vireos made a good showing, with singles at Sabine Woods, Jefferson 17-24 Apr (ph. KS, †m.ob.), High I., Galveston 9 May (ph., †BrT, DDo et al.), Quintana, Brazoria 11 May (ph., †MSc) and Matagorda I., Calhoun 14 May (†PHo). The Brown Jay that visited feeders at Salineño, Starr this past winter lingered until 15 Apr (m.ob.). Blue

Jays w. of their normal range included singles at Kermit, Winkler 20 Mar (AnH) and Balmorhea S.P., Reeves 4 May (TJ, ph. ML). Tree Swallows continue to increase as nesters in the state; a pair was seen investigating a probable nesting cavity at San Bernard N.W.R., Brazoria 19 May+ (RW). A Violet-green Swallow at Utopia, Uvalde 22 Apr (MHe) was unexpected. A Cliff Swallow at McNary Res., Hudspeth 3 Mar (JiP) was a bit early. Adult and juv. Cave Swallows were at Big Creek Scenic Area, San Jacinto 23 May (MRe), providing a 2nd county record.

NUTHATCHES THROUGH WARBLERS

Two Brown-headed Nuthatches were present in Van Zandt 25 Mar-12 May (GC, SGI, DMO), the only known location for the species in n.-cen. Texas. An Eastern Bluebird at Dell City, Hudspeth 25 Mar (JiP) was getting late for the El Paso area. A Mountain Bluebird was reported in Clay 17 Mar (DPa). Inland Veery reports are always of interest; singles were noted at Longview, Gregg 27 Apr (DB), at L. Tawakoni S.P., Hunt 10-12 May (RKi, GC, DMO), near Giddings, Lee 14 May (HBr), and at White River L., Crosby 20 May (MCA, AnH). Similarly, Gray-cheeked Thrushes were found near Giddings, Lee 7 & 21 May (HBr). A singing Wood Thrush was at Austin, Travis 22 May (MBu). A completely out-of-place Clay-colored Thrush was at Eldorado, Schleicher 20-26 May (ph. JaP), providing a first record for the Edwards Plateau. A Gray Catbird at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend N.P., Brewster 26 May (MF) was quite late. A Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) was discovered at Sabine Woods, Jefferson 18 Apr (ph. DJe) and attracted a lot of attention as it remained through the period (†m.ob.). The provenance of this bird created much debate that is sure to continue. If accepted, it would furnish a first record n. of Mexico. Continuing with their eastward push in the current



Black-whiskered Vireo has become an almost annual visitor to the Upper Texas Coast. Spring 2012 produced four documented records, including this bird at Sabine Woods, Jefferson County 17-24 (here 22) April. Photograph by Joseph Kennedy.



Rivaling the Red-billed Pigeon for most unexpected Hill Country bird of the 2012 spring season was this Clay-colored Thrush at Eldorado, Schleicher County, present 20-26 (here 20) May. It provided the first documented record for the Edwards Plateau. Photograph by Jay Packer.

drought regime, single Sage Thrashers were in se. Dallas 3 Mar (GC, RR, m.ob.) and Archer 25 Mar (SL). Nesting Brown Thrashers were documented at Sabine Woods, Jefferson (SM et al.), providing a rare record for the county. A Long-billed Thrasher was w. to Sam Nail Ranch, Big Bend N.P., Brewster 7 Apr (ph. ML). An American Pipit was an interesting sight in the parking lot of the Basin, Big Bend N.P., Brewster 29 Apr (ph. BZ), while 3 on w. Galveston I. 5 May (BDa, AAO) were late. A Phainopepla was at Lubbock, Lubbock 3-11 Mar (ph. CaC, m.ob.).

Worm-eating Warblers made a good showing in the w. half of the state, with singles at Lake Ransom Canyon, Lubbock 29 Apr (CaC, CIR), Andrews, Andrews 18 Apr (SWe), and at Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend N.P., Brewster 29 Apr (BZ, ph. KZ). A Louisiana Waterthrush was near Marathon, Brewster 1-6 Apr (HT, MY, EC). A nice surprise was a Golden-winged Warbler at Lake Tawakoni S.P., Hunt 5 May (RKi, RR). Prothonotary Warblers in the w. half of the state included singles at Lubbock, Lubbock 22-23 Apr (CaC, AnH, CIR),

the Alamito Creek Preserve, Presidio 10 May (SWi), Midland, Midland 11 May (DMe, JMe), and Utopia, Uvalde 13 May (MHe). A Swainson's Warbler at Marathon, Brewster 15 Apr (HT, ph. MY) appears to be the first fully documented for the Trans-Pecos. Single Orange-crowned Warblers near Carthage, Panola 22 May (LP) and at El Paso, El Paso 28 May (BZ) were about two weeks past expected departure dates. A Colima Warbler was noted in the Davis Mountains Preserve, Jeff Davis 26 May (RKO). A MacGillivray's Warbler was found well e. of the normal range at Houston, Harris 24-25 Apr (JT et al.). Westward-wandering Hooded Warblers included singles at Alpine, Brewster 9 Apr (HT), in the Christmas Mts., Brewster 7 May (ph. COJ), and at El Paso, El Paso 12 May (window-killed bird; fide SCU). Up to 3 Cape May Warblers, 2 males and a female, visited the Convention Center, South Padre I., Cameron 30 Apr-4 May (MBS). A Cerulean Warbler was at Crescent Bend Nature Park, Bexar 9 May (ph. BDo). A dead Northern Parula was found at Dumas, Moore 1 Apr (CSt), providing a rare record for the Panhandle; another was at Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend N.P., Brewster 6 Apr (HT, MY). Up to 2 Tropical Parulas were at the n. tip of the known range in the Pecos R. drainage at the Independence Creek

Preserve, Terrell 22-25 May (RKO). Others were noted at Fort Clark, Kinney 11 May (BC) and Concan, Uvalde 31 Mar-7 Apr (BR). Far-flung Chestnut-sided Warblers included one at Midland, Midland 12 May (ph. BLu) and another in nw. Kinney 14 May (BF). Blackpoll Warblers made a good showing on the South Plains, with a male found at Lubbock, Lubbock 30 Apr-1 May (CaC, CIR), a female at Lubbock 1 May (AnH), and a different male also at Lubbock 16 May (SCo). A Palm Warbler was at Marathon, Brewster 9 May (HT, MY). Much farther w. than expected was a Pine Warbler at Midland, Midland 12 Apr (DMe, JMe). An Audubon's Warbler was seen at LaFitte's Cove, Galveston 30-31 Mar (FC, CD et al.). Yellow-throated Warblers of note included singles at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend N.P., Brewster 31 Mar (ph. DS), Lubbock, Lubbock 20 May (CrC), and L. Meredith, Moore 21 May (SBu). A Prairie Warbler at Weslaco, Hidalgo 22 Apr (MGU) was notable. A Black-throated Gray Warbler wandered e. to Camp Wood, Real 2 Apr (ph. CSe). Three territorial male Black-throated Gray Warblers plus a female on a

nest were found at Dog Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains N.P., Culberson 5 May+ (ph. ML), providing the first documented nesting record for the state. Eastward-wandering Townsend's Warblers included singles at South Padre I., Cameron 7-8 Apr (ph. BZ) and Pearland, Brazoria 6 May (ph. CH). Always a rare find as a lowland migrant, a Hermit Warbler was near Marathon, Brewster 29 Apr (HT). A Golden-cheeked Warbler at South Padre I., Cameron 9 Mar (ph. SaG) provided a rare record for the state away from the breeding grounds, as did one at Dogwood Canyon, Dallas 4 Apr (MHu). A Rufous-capped Warbler discovered at Chalk Bluff Park, Uvalde 21 Apr (ph. TLe) was joined by another 26 Apr+ (†m.ob.). The wintering Golden-crowned Warbler at Weslaco, Hidalgo was reported through at least 4 Mar (†m.ob.). A Red-faced Warbler in the Davis Mountains Preserve, Jeff Davis 28 May (RKO) was just the 2nd for the county. A Painted Redstart paid a visit to Bentsen S.P., Hidalgo 4 Mar (JE).

SEADEATERS THROUGH FINCHES

White-collared Seedeaters were discovered along the Rio Grande at Del Rio, Val Verde 17 Apr+ (ph. JKa et al.), further documenting their expansion upriver. The Green-tailed Towhee push eastward from the winter continued, with singles at Hagerman N.W.R., Grayson 12 Mar (WM, DMA, JCh), Sabine Woods, Jefferson 21 Apr (ph. TJ, MRo), and the Fort Worth Nature Center, Tarrant 4 Mar (JJ). The Rufous-crowned Sparrow that wintered at Houston, Harris was present until 12 Mar (PSe). Up to 2 Cassin's Sparrows were at the Quintana Jetty, Brazoria 17-18 Mar (ph. TDa, RW), and another was found nearby 20 Mar (RW), where 2 were noted 6 Apr (NR, MSc). Two lingering Chipping Sparrows were at Houston 16 May (JHi), a Clay-colored Sparrow was there 15-16 May (CTL, MaK), and 2 Field Sparrows there 23 Apr (DDi) were late. A Vesper Sparrow was late at Galveston, Galveston 11 May (HSm). A Lark Sparrow at Dell City, Hudspeth 16 Mar (AnH) was a month ahead of expected arrival dates; one at Galveston 16 May (BLi) was late. Up to 20 Lark Buntings lingering from the winter invasion were near Bellville, Austin 14 Mar (DV), while 6 in Waller 24 Apr (HL) tied the U.T.C. late date. A Baird's Sparrow was at Lajitas, Brewster 8 Apr (GC). A Fox Sparrow was at El Paso 17 Mar (ph. BZ). Lingering Lincoln's Sparrows were noted at Longview, Gregg 14 May (LP), Houston 17 May (CTL, MaK), and Addicks Res., Harris 17 May (JHi, DDi). A White-throated Sparrow at Houston 22 May (CTL) was the latest ever for the U.T.C. The latest reported Harris's Sparrow was at High I., Galveston 25 Apr (RPO).

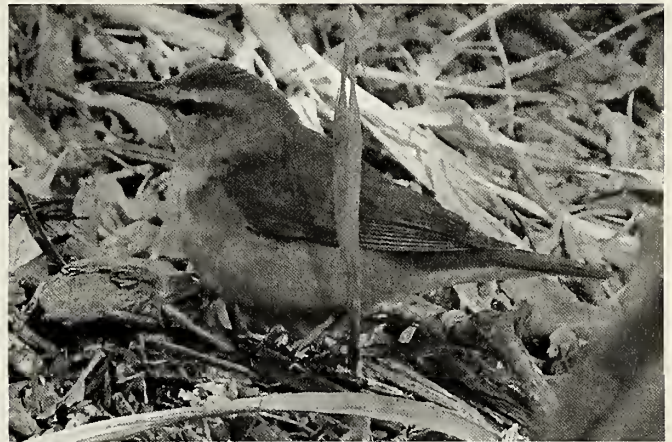
A Scarlet Tanager was in the Christmas Mts., Brewster 6 May (AW). A Western Tanager was at L. Wichita Park, Wichita 13 May (SL, TLo, DPa), providing a rare county record. Two of the 5 wintering Crimson-collared Grosbeaks in the L.R.G.V. lingered into the spring: one at Pharr, Hidalgo was last reported 14 Apr (MGU, m.ob.), and the other at Weslaco, Hidalgo stayed until 22 Apr (DJo, m.ob.). Interestingly, another Crimson-collared was present at a separate Weslaco location 28 Apr–1 May (RG, †BF, ph. MBS). Black-headed Grosbeaks made a great showing to the e., with singles at High I., Galveston 16 Apr (JCr, NC), L. Wichita Park, Wichita 2 May (DPa), at L. Throckmorton, Throckmorton 6 May (GC, SGI, DMO), Fort Worth, Tarrant 7 May (CrC), and Hagerman N.W.R., Grayson 12 May (WM, JCh). A Lazuli Bunting was e. to Camp Tyler, Smith 7 May (PB). A Varied Bunting at Hueco Tanks State Historical Site, El Paso 10 May (JS) added to the recent records from this site.

Up to 12 Bobolinks were noted at Village Creek Drying Beds, Tarrant 12–18 May (GC, m.ob.), and 8 were in Jack 19 May (BF). Farther e., one Bobolink was at Richland Creek W.M.A., Navarro 10 May (CSH, HHa, MSy) and 15 near Tyler, Smith 12 May (LP). Holdovers from the Rusty Blackbird fall/winter invasion included one at the Independence Creek Preserve, Terrell 10–11 Mar (ph. Sfa), 25 at Temple, Bell through 16 Mar (RPI), and 3 at Petersburg, Hale 16 Mar (BrS). An impressive 4000 Brewer's Blackbirds were seen in Waller 2 Mar (HL). Two Common Grackles were in w. El Paso 11 Mar (JiP), where rare. An early Bronzed Cowbird was at Littlefield, Lamb 3 Mar (AR). An Orchard Oriole in Culberson 16 Mar (AnH) was notably early. A Hooded Oriole at Lubbock 23 Apr (SCo, CIR) provided a rare local record. An Audubon's Oriole was an unexpected find at Seguin, Guadalupe 4 Mar (DMU), while 2 at the Love Creek Preserve, Bandera 23 Mar–12 Apr (TC, RKo) are assumed to be part of the species' range expansion onto the Edwards Plateau. A female Lesser Goldfinch was reported at Village Creek Drying Beds, Tarrant 17 May (GC).

Cited observers (subregional editors in bold-face): Jan Allen, Kenny Anderson, Rafael Armada, Peter Assmann, Helen Baines (HBa), John Baines (JoB), Peter Barnes, Jessie Barry (JeB), Susan Bergeson (SBe), Chuck Berthoud (CBe), Mike Bloodsworth (MBI), David Brotherton, Luanne Brotherton, Charlie Brower (CBr), Hugh Brown (HBr), Kelly Bryan, Maggie Burnett (MBu), Shelly Burnett (SBu), Bryan Calk, Martin Campbell (MCa), **Eric Carpenter** (Central Texas: 5604 Southwest Parkway #2222, Austin, Texas 78735. email:

ecarpe@gmail.com), Cameron Carver (CaC), Craig Carver (CrC), Jack Chiles (JCh), Jeremy Clark (JCl), Fred Collins, Steve Collins (SCo), Tom Collins, Greg Cook, Mel Cooksey (MCo), John Crosby (JCr), Nancy Crosby, **D. D. Currie** (DDC) (North-Central Texas: 2703 Colleen Dr., Arlington, TX 76016. email: ddbirder@sbcglobal.net), Scott Cutler (SCu), Tripp Davenport (TDa), Brenda Dawson (BDa), Raul Delgado,

Nancy Devlin, Drew Dickert (DDi), Carolyn Dill, Bob Doe (BDo), Dave Dolan (DDo), Tzila Duenzl (TDu), Marc Eastman, Maryann Eastman (MEa), John Ebner, Gil Eckrich, Ed Fair, Frank Farese, Nathan Farnau, Andrew Farnsworth, Sam Fason (Sfa), Tim Fennell, Joe Fischer, Mark Flippo, Susan Foster (Sfo), Brush Freeman, **Bert Frenz** (BeF) (East Texas: 221 Rainbow Dr., #12190, Livingston, TX 77399–2021. email: bert2@bafrenz.com), Sam Galick (SaG), Tony Gallucci, Raul Garza, Sidney Gauthreaux (SiG), Karen Gleason, Steve Glover (SGI), Coleman Goin, Michael Gray (MGr), Mary Gustafson (MGU), Cindy Hansen, Peggy Harding (PHa), Ken Hartman (KHa), Hayden Haucke (HHa), Jerry Heaney (JHe), David Hedges, Mitch Heindel (MHe), Rhandy Helton, **Anthony Hewetson** (AnH) (Northwest Texas: 4407 36th St., Lubbock TX 79414. email: terrverts@yahoo.com), Aveline Hewetson (AvH), Jim Hinson (JHi), Petra Hockey (PHo), Kelly Holligan (KHo), Greg Homel, Bob Honig, Jim Howard (JHo), Mary Humes (MHu), Huck Hutchens (HHu), Marshall Iliff, Hugh Jameson, Don Jeane (DJe), Tom Johnson, Dan Jones (DJo), Jim Jones, John Karges (JKa), Joe Kennedy (JKe), Paula Kennedy, Tom Kihn, Richard Kinney (RKi), John Kiseda (JKi), Kendra Kocab, Rich Kostecke (RKo), Jan Kraemer (JKr), Larry Kramer, Mark Kulstad (MaK), Michael Kuzio (MiK), Sarah Kuzio, Harvey Laas, Barbara Lapp (BLa), Cin-Ty Lee (CTL), Jason Leifester, Tim Lenz (TL), Brad Lirette (BLi), Dwayne Liteer, Mark Lockwood, Scotty Lofland, Tim Lofland (TLo), Bill Lupardus (BLu), Dick Malnory (DMA), Linda Martin-Rust (LMR), Lalise Mason, Steve Mayes, Jon McIntyre (JMc), Candy McNamee, Don Merritt (DMe), Joann Merritt (JMe), Wayne Meyer, Jean Miller (JMi), Darlene Moore (DMo), Derek Muschalek (DMu), Midland Naturalists, Bruce Neville,



The relatively lush surrounds of Marathon, Brewster County, Texas provided this Swainson's Warbler a welcome stopover 15 April 2012. This is a long overdue first documented record of the species for the Trans-Pecos region. Photograph by Heidi Trudell.

David Newstead, Alice Ann ODonnel (AAO), Irene Oatman, Carolyn Ohl-Johnson (COJ), Amy Packer, Jay Packer (JaP), Greg Page (GPa), **Jim Paton** (JiP) (Trans-Pecos: 4325 Boy Scout Lane, El Paso, TX 79922. email: jnpaton@att.net), Dan Patrick (DPa), Dick Peake (DPe), Glenn Perrigo, Randy Pinkston (RPI), Carl Poldrack, Ray Porter (RPo), Linda Price, Nina Rach, Bob Rasa, Ross Rasmussen, Martin Reid (MRe), Clayton Rickett (CIR), Cecilia Riley (CeR), Melissa Roach (MRo), Anona Roberts, Ken Rosenberg, Preston Ruland, Chris Runk (ChR), Susan Schaezler, Mark Scheuerman (MSc), Dale Schmidtendorff, David Scott (DSc), Dennis Scott (DeS), Susan Scott (SSc), Luke Seitz, **Willie Sekula** (South Texas: 7063 Co. Rd. 228, Falls City, TX 78113–2627. email: wsekula@copper.net), Paul Sellin (PS), Kelley Sempeck, Chuck Sexton (CSe), Cliff Shackelford (CSH), Donna Simonetti (DoS), Margaret Sloan (MSI), Howard Smith (HSm), Sylvestre Sorola (SSo), John Sproul, Carolyn Stallwitz (CS), Harlan Stewart (HSt), Byron Stone (ByS), Mary Beth Stowe (MBS), Paul Sunby (PSu), Bill Supulski (BiS), Brady Surber (BrS), Matt Symmank (MSy), Pete Szilagyi (PSz), Bill Tarbox (BiT), Bryan Tarbox (BrT), Samantha Tessner, John Tharp, Barbara Tompkins (BTo), Heidi Trudell, Darrell Vollert, **Ron Weeks** (UTC: 110 Indian Warrior, Lake Jackson, TX 77566. email: ronweeks@sbcglobal.net), Lou Weinacht, Stephen Welborn (SWe), Matt White, Stu Wilson (SWi), Chris Wood, Adam Woods, Terry Woodward, Matt York, Barry Zimmer, Kevin Zimmer. 📷

Mark W. Lockwood, 402 East Harriet Avenue, Alpine, Texas 79830, (mark.lockwood@tpwd.state.tx.us)
Eric Carpenter, 5604 Southwest Parkway #2222, Austin, Texas 78735, (ecarpe@gmail.com)
Willie Sekula, 7063 County Road 228, Falls City, Texas 78113–2627, (wsekula@copper.net)

Colorado & Wyoming



Tony Leukering (non-passerines)
Steven G. Mlodinow (passerines)

The extensive swath of seasonally record-warmest temperatures for much of the eastern two-thirds of the United States extended into Wyoming in the three drainages in the northeast and into Colorado in the Republican and Arkansas drainages; the rest of the Region was "just" much above average. As for precipitation, except for the Yellowstone drainage, the Region saw below-normal values, with Colorado's West Slope and Wyoming's Upper Platte drainage recording record-driest seasons. Most of eastern Wyoming saw a record-driest March, as did Colorado's South Platte drainage, while the respective northeastern corners of both states were record warmest then. Except for the Bighorn drainage (which was "only" above normal), the entire Region experienced temperatures much above normal in April, with precipitation ratings that month ranging from above normal to below normal except for Colorado's West Slope and Wyoming's Cheyenne and Niobrara drainage, both of which were much below normal. May saw similar precipitation ratings, but Wyoming's Green and Bear drainage and Colorado's Republican drainage were listed in the much-below-normal category. May temperatures were near normal or slightly below normal in most of northern Wyoming, but above normal everywhere else, except that Colorado's West Slope and the Republican drainage were much above normal.

Wyoming scored first state records for Black Vulture and Long-tailed Jaeger. Among the other highlights of an interesting if not spectacular season included a horde of hybrids (particularly of waterfowl), the continuation of the incredible winter gull and Snowy Owl shows into spring, Colorado's second record of Eastern Marsh Wren, some careful scrutiny of *Catharus* thrushes including an excellent

showing of Gray-cheeked Thrush in Colorado, a plethora of Eastern Towhees, and the return of last year's Colorado National Monument Black-chinned Sparrows. The warm season was likely responsible for the fairly large number of early and record-early occurrences of a variety of species. The lowlight was the generally mediocre migration of shorebirds and passerines on the eastern plains. Thanks to Larry Arnold for providing an excellent summation of arrival dates for West Slope Colorado.

Abbreviations: Big Johnson (Big Johnson Res., El Paso); Bonny (Bonny Res., Yuma); Brett Gray (Brett Gray Ranch, sw. Lincoln); Highline (Highline Res., Mesa); Hutton L. (Hutton Lake N.W.R., Albany, WY); John Martin (John Martin Res., Bent); Jumbo (Jumbo Res., Sedgwick/Logan); Keyhole (Keyhole S.P., Crook, WY); Prewitt (Prewitt Res., Washington); Red Lion (Red Lion S.W. A., Logan); Spring Park (Spring Park Res., Eagle); St. Vrain (St. Vrain S.P., Weld); Stulp's (Stulp's Farm, Prowers); Timnath (Timnath Res., Larimer). "West Slope" denotes locations w. of the Rockies. Due to reporting biases, all locations can be assumed to be in Colorado except that each Wyoming location is noted as such the first time it appears in text. Only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying cited records are identified here. Undocumented reports from Colorado of Colorado B.R.C. (C.B.R.C.) review species (<www.cfo-link.org>) deemed probably correct are summarized at the end of this report.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CORMORANTS

The only reports of Greater White-fronted Goose away from Colorado's e. plains were of 7 at Monte Vista N.W.R., Rio Grande 3 Mar (ph. E. MacKerrow) and singles at Narraguinnep Res., Montezuma 10 Mar (JDB) and Nucla, Montrose 10-15 Mar (CD); a laggard visited Riverbend Ponds, Larimer 6 May (J. Shenot). The spring maxima of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese were of 70,000 and 2000, respectively, at Jumbo, Sedgwick 11 Mar (SGM, TS), with 4 Snows and one Ross's there 25-26 May, in Logan (SGM et al.), being the last of the season. Snow x Ross's hybrids visited Windsor, Weld 4 Mar (ad.) and Jumbo, Sedgwick 25 Mar (imm.), while 2 Snow Goose x Canada Goose hybrids were ogled at Timnath 4 Mar (all SGM, TS). A white goose (Snow or Ross's) reported 17 Mar from Mineral (T. Kennedy) would provide one of very few records for that montane county. Taverner's Cackling Geese were found at Little Gaynor L., Boulder (one; TF) and Windsor, Weld (16; SGM, TS) 4 Mar, and singles visited various Weld locations 17 Mar (SGM), 5 Apr (SGM), and 29 Apr (two sites; SGM, NM). Five Cackling Geese at Jumbo, Logan 25 May (SGM) were about

a month tardy. Though Colorado has not accepted the species due to issues of provenance, an ad. Mute Swan present in and near St. Vrain 31 Mar-12 May (D. Kibbe) provided for more discussion about the source(s) for Colorado's rapid increase in sightings of this species, an increase that has paralleled that of Trumpeter Swan. The 25 Trumpeter Swans at Browns Park N.W.R., Moffat 12 Mar (T. Moulton et al.) made a high count for Colorado. The wintering Larimer Trumpeter Swan was last noted 10 Apr (CC), while the Boulder-wintering Tundra Swan stayed through 4 Mar (m.ob.). Two migrant Tundra Swans were noted in Larimer 11 Mar (K. Ecton); 2 in Logan 3-19 Mar (JK) were e. of typical areas.

The haul of hybrid ducks (all males, except where noted, and all putative) encountered this spring was extensive: Gadwall x Mallard in Weld 3 Mar-12 Apr (ph. SGM) and Morgan 17 Mar (SGM); Gadwall x Northern Pintail in Sedgwick 25 Mar (ph. SGM); Mallard x Northern Pintail in Logan 22 Mar (ph. SGM); Gadwall x Northern Shoveler in Adams 3 Mar (C. Madsen et al.); the continuing American Wigeon x Green-winged Teal 3 Mar (TF) and returning Blue-winged Teal x Cinnamon Teal in Boulder (8th year) 20 Mar-3 Apr (DD) and 27 May (M. Rose); Ring-necked Duck x Lesser Scaup in Weld 5 Apr (ph. SGM); and Tufted Duck x Lesser Scaup in Weld 18 Mar (ph. SGM). Other Blue-winged Teal x Cinnamon Teal were in Mesa 30 Apr (LA), Montrose 12 Mar (CD), Washington 26 Apr (SGM), and in Weld at Lower Latham Res. 12 & 26 Apr and at St. Vrain 28 Apr (all ph. SGM). A Wood Duck was at atypically high elevation at Salida, Chaffee 30 May (RM). The Mexican Duck story keeps rolling along! This season, 2 different males were noted at Firestone, Weld (4 Mar and 22 Mar-11 Apr; both ph. SGM), with the latter bird apparently paired with a female Mallard. Though most waterfowl were found in reduced numbers this spring (an effect of the warm winter?), several large concentrations were noted, such as 1480 Redheads at Firestone 10 Mar (SGM, TS), 800 Northern Pintails at Jumbo, Logan 11 Mar (SGM, TS), 200 Canvasbacks at Loloff Res., Weld 4 Mar (SGM, TS), 68 Greater Scaup at Fossil Creek Res., Larimer 29 Mar (SGM, NM), and 1250 Lesser Scaup at Big Johnson 8 Apr (SGM, TS). The 21 reports of Greater Scaup from six Colorado counties made for an above-average showing.

A Red-throated Loon was with Western Grebes at Marston Res., Denver 16 Apr (NL). After scoring the well-birded county's first just last fall, Boulder logged its 2nd Red-throated Loon this spring, an ad. completing prealternate molt at Baseline Res. 6-14 May (P. Gent); the species is Regionally very rare in spring. A

basic-plumaged Pacific Loon, quite a surprise both for spring and for the abnormally easterly location, graced a small pond near Prewitt 26-27 Apr (ph. SGM). Making for a good distributional showing, Common Loon was noted in 10 Colorado counties w. of the Front Range (Custer, Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Jackson, Mesa, Moffat, Montezuma, Rio Blanco, Routt), though the largest Colorado single-location tally was of a fairly low 4, at Big Johnson 11 May (S. Bol). Conversely, Wyoming reported five counts of 20 or more, topped by 40 at Woodruff Narrows Res., Uinta 25 Apr (JW). The high tally of 313 Horned Grebes came from Timnath 1 Apr (SGM, TS). Basic-plumaged Red-necked Grebes were noted at Union Res., Weld 15-17 Mar and Pueblo Res., Pueblo 8 Apr (both SGM, TS), and one transitioning into alternate plumage graced Big Johnson 2-10 May (M. Goff); Colorado averages about one Red-necked per spring. The Eared Grebe maximum of 700+ came from Highline 1 May (C. Aid, JBn). A Neotropical Cormorant was well studied near St. Vrain 19 Apr (†SGM).

HERONS THROUGH RAILS

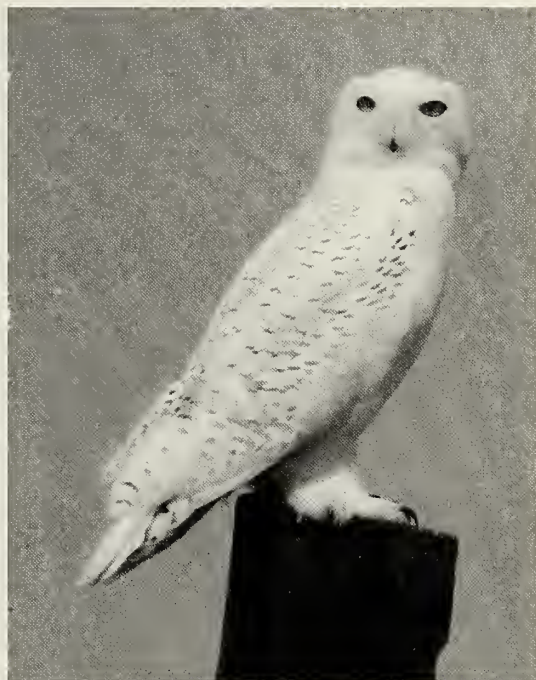
The most interesting report of American Bittern was of one seen at high elevation at De Weese Res., Custer 30 Apr (RM). Odd Great Egret locales included one at high elevation at Salida 19 Apr-4 May (S. York); one at Hutton L. 24-27 Apr (JM, JSa et al.); 3-4 scattered near Grand Junction, Mesa 29 Apr-27 May (LA); and one quite rare at Craig, Moffat 30 May with a less-rare Snowy Egret (FL). The only Little Blue Heron reported this spring (1-2 being typical, most occurring in Colorado), an ad., was at Lander, Fremont, WY 9-12 Apr (ph. J. Downham).

The highlight of the spring was Wyoming's first **Black Vulture**, a well-described bird at Cheyenne, Laramie 10 Apr (GJ). At least 40 Broad-winged Hawks were noted this spring, 7 of them in Wyoming (16 Apr-3 May), with 2 juvs. at Hutton L. on the last date (JM, JG). The 32 Colorado records spanned 30 Mar-31 May, with all but 3 birds on the e. side; the West Slope reports came from Steamboat Springs,

Routt, with 2 there 22 Apr and one on 23 May (both L. Williams). The last documented laggard Rough-legged Hawk was noted at Arapaho N.W.R., Jackson 27 Apr (A. Spencer et al.); Rough-leggeds usually leave Colorado by 22 Apr. The Black Rail heard at Fort Lyon, Bent 21 Apr (B. Kaempfer) beat the pre-2012 early date by two days; the one calling near John Martin 31 Mar (MP, BSt) beat it by three weeks and two days! A Sora heard 1 Apr at Beebe Draw, Weld (SGM, TS) was also early for a migrant. Other than these records, the rail show on the e. plains was subpar. The count of 1000 American Coots at Totten Res., Montezuma 1 Apr (JDB) was the culmination of an atypically large number of wintering birds there plus added spring migrants, making a record count for Colorado's West Slope.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS

American Golden-Plover, rare in spring, somewhat more common and regular in fall, made two appearances in Colorado, one each on the plains and West Slope. The first was near Karval, Lincoln 26 Apr (AB), while the one on the shorebird-depauperate West Slope (4th area record) was a basic-plumaged bird at Highline 8 May (LA). The published early arrival date for Snowy Plover for Colorado is 1 Apr, so the multiple individuals at Neenoshe Res., Kiowa as early as 26 Mar (DN) and the 2 on 31 Mar at L. Cheraw, Otero (MP, BSt) were most interesting. The 6 Piping Plovers at John Martin 18 Apr (DN), while not record early, were certainly on the early side, particularly for so many. A Black-necked Stilt at Beebe Draw 1 Apr (SGM, TS) was nearly record early, while 3 at Pagosa Springs 9 May (ph. B. Bailey) might provide an *Archuleta* first. While recent nocturnal efforts have shown that Upland Sandpiper is a migrant over Boulder in fall, the individual found on the ground near Teller L. 29-30 Apr (TF) provides what might be only the 2nd recent



After a great winter showing across much of the continent, this adult Snowy Owl near Bovina, Lincoln County 26 March 2012 was one of seven migrants found in Colorado or Wyoming this spring and accounts for one of the very latest records for Colorado. Photograph by Robert Martinez.

spring record for this well-birded county. After last spring's spectacular showing, Whimbrel numbers returned to normal this season, with nine reports of 46 birds at nine sites in seven Colorado counties (25 Apr-10 May), with the most interesting being of one on the West Slope at Fruitgrowers Res., Delta 29 Apr (LA).

Although relatively common in late spring on the e. plains, White-rumped Sandpiper is poorly known farther w., so the 5 at San Luis L., Alamosa 22 May (JDB) provided only the 3rd San Luis Valley record, all since 2008. Up to 11 were also at high elevation at Spring Park 1-3 Jun (DF et al.), providing Eagle's first record. Even more astonishing, 47 were found at Antero Res. 3 Jun (ph. SGM, AC), providing not only a first for Park but also the 4th highest Colorado count ever. Forty at Table Mountain S.W.A., Goshen 29 May (C. Callaghan) was more than respectable for Wyoming. Providing an excellent example of both the dearth of shorebird habitat present in the Region this spring and the large difference in flight magnitude between spring and fall, the high count of Baird's Sandpiper was of only 18, seen at L. Cheraw 6 May (C. Lawrence). The sole Dunlin of the season was a basic-plumaged bird at Red Lion 26 May (SGM, NM, AC). Five reports totaling 30 Short-billed Dowitchers came from Wyoming this season (5-21 May), with the high count being of 11, hopefully all critically identified. Colorado saw a typical season, with six reports of 9 individuals (26 Apr-20 May), all in

SA With the removal of Glossy Ibis from the C.B.R.C.'s review list, less attention may be paid to the species in this venue, though we consider staying abreast of the colonization of the West's frontier to be important. This season saw at least 14 reports of 15 individuals from one Wyoming and eight Colorado counties (5 Apr-10 May), with the Wyoming bird (17-24 Apr; JM, JSa et al.) at and near Hutton L., a site at which the species has previously bred. Particularly critical may be the continuing documentation of the spread beyond the Region's e. plains, so the singles on the West Slope in Montrose 5 & 25 Apr (CD, BW), Moffat 15-16 Apr (C. Dodson, FL), La Plata 15 (S. Allerton) & 26 Apr (JDB), and Mesa 21 Apr (SGM, LA) are of more-than-passing interest. In addition, 5 Glossy Ibis x White-faced Ibis hybrids were reported from Colorado (21 Apr-19 May), one each in Delta, Larimer, Pueblo, Washington, and Weld.

SA The 2011-2012 "Gull Season" in Colorado/Wyoming peaked spectacularly in Mar and is therefore summarized in this column. December was rather lackluster, which is not atypical, but by mid-Jan, reports of rare gulls in the Region increased sharply, with the epicenter being several ponds in *Broomfield* near the Erie landfill (which lies in *Weld*). The season would have been rated a good one as it stood, but Walbek, Kellner, and companions visited Prewitt 10 Mar to find the shores strewn with fish carcasses and feasting gulls, including a Glaucous-winged Gull x Herring Gull hybrid (ph. GW), a Mew Gull (JK, GW), and a Glaucous Gull. For the remainder of the month, until rising waters covered rotting shad, Prewitt Res. was the dining table for an astounding number and diversity of rare Regional visitors.

Four Mew Gulls represented a fairly typical total for recent years, with lone ads. in the Pueblo area 8-28 Dec (BKP, RM), *Broomfield* 9 Feb (ph. GW), and Prewitt 10 Mar (JK, GW); a first-cycle bird visited Union Res., *Weld* 4 Mar (SGM, TS). Astonishingly, 3 **Western Gulls** were found, including a third-cycle bird at Prewitt 17 Mar (ph. SGM); an ad. at Prewitt 29 Mar (ph. SGM, NM); and another ad. at Totten Res., *Montezuma* 22 Apr (ph. R. & H. Morris, A. Dobbins, D. Shoffner); the Region's first was at Chatfield just last Jun! Though the Herring Gull maximum was a goodly, but not exceptional, 325, at Prewitt on 11 Mar (SGM, TS), a mind-boggling 7 **Herring Gull x Glaucous-winged Gull** hybrids were detected 14 Jan-29 Mar, with 2 in *Broomfield* Jan-Feb, one at McIntosh Res., *Boulder* 19 Jan (ph. SGM, ph. GW, ph. BS, B. Guarente), and 4 at Prewitt during Mar. There were but three prior Regional records of this hybrid (see Mlodinow, S. G. 2012. In *The Scope: Stealth gull: Herring x Glaucous-winged Gull* hybrids in the North American interior. *Colorado Birds* 46: 198-206.). Nearly as stunning, 6 imm. **Herring Gull x Glaucous Gull** hybrids were noted from *Boulder*, *Broomfield*, and *Larimer* 7 Jan-20 Feb; this hybrid is nearly unknown Regionally.

The avalanche of Thayer's Gull reports created difficulty in sorting out how many birds were involved; our conservative estimate was a startling **106** in Colorado Dec-29 Mar, about half of which were adults. About a quarter of these were at Prewitt during Mar, and another 15+ were in *Broomfield*, mostly during Jan and Feb. The distribution of these records formed a distinct pattern: along the Front Range s. to *Pueblo*, and across ne. Colorado from *Larimer* to *Sedgwick*. The absence of this species from se. Colorado, where more unusual, and w. Colorado, where downright rare, is striking. Equally unprecedented were 9 Iceland Gulls through 1 Apr, 4 of which were at Prewitt; others documented were one each from *Arapahoe*, *Boulder*, *Morgan*, and *Weld*, plus 2 from *Broomfield*. Observers exercised commendable caution; a fair number of "Thiceland Gulls" were also noted, particularly at Prewitt.

The season's (approximate) tally of 63 Lesser Black-backed Gulls through 13 Apr was also rather impressive. Prewitt accounted for about 13 of these and *Pueblo* for about 10, but in general, the distribution of sightings was similar to that for Thayer's Gull. Adding to the 16 prior records, 5 Glaucous-winged Gulls were documented, with 3 at Prewitt 11-25 Mar (ph. SGM, GW, TS) and singles at *Aurora Res.*, *Arapahoe* 31 Dec (ph. SGM, TS) and *Panama Res.*, *Boulder* 15-17 Mar (†SGM, TF). Glaucous Gulls, yes, appeared in exceptional numbers totaling 33 birds through 15 Apr, only one of which was an ad.; Prewitt hosted about half of these. Again, the distribution of sightings resembled that of Thayer's Gull, excepting one at John Martin 10 Dec (DN), which provided a very rare se. Colorado record. Finally, 5 Great Black-backed Gulls were found, with none at Prewitt! Up to 2 inhabited *Pueblo Res.* through 17 Feb (BKP, m.ob.); one was at *Jumbo Res.*, *Logan/Sedgwick* 12 Feb (GW, LK, S. Larson); and very rare for se. Colorado, an ad. inhabited John Martin 14-31 Dec (*fide* DN), while a second-cycle bird visited there 18 Apr (DN); 2-3 Great Black-backed are detected during a typical year.

Boulder, *Larimer*, and *Weld*. The 1145 Wilson's Phalaropes at Kersey, *Weld* 3 May (SGM, NM) was the seasonal high Regional tally and the highest such spring count in recent years. The Red-necked Phalarope at Twenty-mile Res., *Douglas* 28 Apr (LK) was early.

Bonaparte's Gulls were noted w. of the Front Range, where uncommon, in six Colorado counties (3 Apr-18 May) and in *Sweetwater*, WY—one at *Flaming Gorge Res.* 7 May (S. Billerman, JM, MJ). The only documented Laughing Gull visited *Cherry Creek* 20 Apr (†T. Bunker). A Lesser Black-backed Gull, very rare in Wyoming, wandered around *Albany* 17 Mar-1 May (JSa, MC), providing excellent opportunities for study of a second-cycle bird. A first-cycle Glaucous Gull was several weeks late at *Keyhole* 9 May (JnA).

TERNS THROUGH KINGBIRDS

Least Tern is rare on Colorado's West Slope, with nearly all records coming from *Delta* and *Mesa*, so the ad. at *Spring Park* 16 May (DF) provided excitement and an *Eagle* first. Oddly,

of the four reports of Caspian Tern, three came from Colorado's West Slope, 27 Apr-31 May. The 20 Common Terns at L. Hasty, *Bent* 14 Apr (MP, SGM) not only made for an abnormally high count but were also record early, a month earlier than typical. An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was an incredible surprise at *Hutton L.* 3 May (JM, JG) and would provide a Wyoming first. The extralimital *Jefferson Greater Roadrunner* was still present at *Dinosaur Ridge* 18 Mar (BS). The earliest Flammulated Owl was nearly record early 23 Apr near *Nucla* (BW, CD), though little effort has been expended on determining when the species actually returns. Western Screech-Owl reports from the San Luis Valley are long on history and short on documentation, so the sound recordings made this spring of 1-2 at the *Medano-Zapata Ranch*, *Alamosa* 30 Mar-1 Apr (TF, BS) are most welcome. We received seven spring reports of Snowy Owl, with only 2 being of known wintering birds, that of the long-staying *Adams* bird through 11 Mar (S. Berenzweig) and the ad. male at *Keyhole* through 22 Mar (JnA). The first of 5

spring migrants detected, an imm. female (different from the bird found at *Verhoeff Res.*, *Bent* 4 Feb (ph. DN) visited John Martin 15-26 Mar (DN). The next were found 25 Mar: an imm. at *Red Lion* (SGM, TS) and an ad. at *Prospect Heights*, *Weld* (SGM, TS). The next day, an ad. was near *Bovina*, *Lincoln* 26 Mar (ph. R. Martinez); and the last was an imm. at *Keyhole* 15-18 May (JnA, JrA, ph. K. Countryman).

A Common Poorwill n. of Kim, *Las Animas* 14 Apr (SGM, MP) missed Colorado's record-early date by one day, while a Chimney Swift at *Pueblo* 12 Apr (V. Truan) beat the arrival record by a day. Two White-throated Swifts at *Dinosaur Ridge* 6 Mar (A. Hudak) were record early by about a week, and 20 at *Guernsey S.P.*, *Platte* 30 Mar (JM, MC) were record early by five days in Wyoming. A Red-headed Woodpecker at *Riverton*, *Fremont*, WY 23 Apr (JW) was w. of normal. The Acorn Woodpecker colony continued at *Durango*, *La Plata*, with as many as 6 birds there (m.ob.), but a female at *Cheyenne Mountain S.P.* 21 May (BM) made only the 2nd record for *El Paso*. Ladder-backed

Woodpecker is a denizen of the Region only in se. Colorado, where it inhabits sparse riparian and piñon-juniper habitat at low elevation. One can imagine the surprise of finding one at Tamarack Ranch S.W.A., Logan 25 May (†SGM). A Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpecker was well e. of normal at Jackson Res., Morgan 24 May (SGM).

An Eastern Wood-Pewee, Regionally rare, graced Chico, Pueblo 29 May (†BM). Several *Empidonax* flycatchers arrived in Colorado about a week earlier than normal, including 2 Least Flycatchers at Crow Valley 29 Apr (SGM, NM) and one at Last Chance, Washington 29 Apr (JK), plus a Dusky Flycatcher 25 km n. of Nucla, Montrose 24 Apr (CD, BW). A Gray Flycatcher at Crow Valley 24 May was on Colorado's e. plains, where unusual (SGM). Eastern Phoebe continues to expand its range northward along the Front Range; over the past few years, this species has colonized, very locally, n. to Boulder, as exemplified by a returning pair (9 Apr+) with 3 large nestlings (21 May) near Baseline Res. (C. Nunes). This year, however, a pair was still farther n., near Loveland, Larimer 17 Mar–8 May (CC, m.ob.). In the mts., where very rare, an Eastern Phoebe was at L. Estes, Larimer 4 Apr (C. Orwig). The 28 tallied along a 2-km stretch of Cottonwood Canyon near the *Las Animas/Baca* border 14 Apr (MP, SGM) likely made a Colorado maximum. Another Eastern Phoebe x Black Phoebe was found in Fremont, this time at Florence 8 Apr (ph. SGM, TS), apparently paired with an Eastern Phoebe. Far more unusual was a **Black Phoebe x Say's Phoebe** hybrid at Cokedale, *Las Animas* 19–21 May (N. Pieplow); the only previous occurrence of this hybrid was in *Humboldt*, CA two falls ago. Recently, Colorado has averaged about 2 Vermilion Flycatchers per year, mostly from mid-Mar to late May, so the 3 noted this spring, all males, made for a good season: Holyoke, Phillips 29 Mar (S. Severs); Brett Gray 28 Apr (ph. GW); and near Karval, Lincoln 8 May (ph. AB). Three Ash-throated Flycatchers at Cottonwood Canyon, *Las Animas* 14 Apr were about a week early (MP, SGM). Northerly Ash-throateds were noted at Rocky Mountain Arsenal N.W.R., Adams 20 May (B. J. & M. Stacey) and Fort Collins, Larimer 29 May (Del Nelson); most wayward spring Ash-throateds are found mid- to late May. Cassin's Kingbirds are usually rather scarce during spring in e. Colorado away from the se., but quite a few were found during May away from their usual haunts, including singles in *Arapahoe*, *Broomfield*, *Denver*, *Larimer*, and *Washington*, plus 2 in *Weld*. About a week early were a Western Kingbird at Carson Park, *Arapahoe* 10 Apr (E. Donnan) and an Eastern Kingbird near Lamar 20 Apr (JSt); 3 Eastern

Kingbirds at Craig, Moffat 22 May (LA) were a bit nw. of their usual range. A stunning 5 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported this spring; 2 may have been attempting to breed near John Martin 22 May (*fide* DN), while singles were near Karval 9 May (AB), at Cherry Creek 17 May (ph. K. Rasmussen), and s. of Kit Carson, *Cheyenne* 31 May (C. Rustay); the species is annual in e. Colorado.

VIREOS THROUGH THRUSHES

A White-eyed Vireo at Tempel Grove, ne. Bent 18 Apr (DN) was about a week early and the first of 6 found this season in Colorado, which averages about 4 per spring. A **White-eyed Vireo** in Wyoming at Wyopo Fishing Access, Fremont 28 May (J. McDonald) added to fewer than 10 records from that state. Gray Vireos were found e. of their known range in *Las Animas*, a singing male at Cottonwood Canyon 12 May (SGM), while 4+, with one pair building a nest, near Dinosaur N.M. 29 May (CD, BW) were n. of their known West Slope range. Four Yellow-throated Vireos this spring, 12–31 May, was about the norm; however, the one at Chatfield 31 May–6 Jun was building a nest with a Plumbeous Vireo (J. Roller). Colorado has a previous instance of this pairing, in *Larimer* in 2002, when an apparent female Yellow-throated (N. Komar) interacted with a singing Plumbeous and attended a nest with an egg and one nestling that appeared to be a Plumbeous Vireo nearly ready to fledge (m.ob.; ph. T. Leukering). A Plumbeous at Lamar 20 Apr (JK) was rather early and far east. The only Cassin's Vireo was equally far e. at Stulp's 24 Apr (ph. JSt); this species is far more numerous during fall. Increased observer scrutiny of singing Warbling Vireos has shown that Eastern Warbling Vireos (*V. gilvus gilvus*) seem to be regular in small numbers e. to the Front Range, at least in n. Colorado, where several were again detected in *Boulder* and westernmost *Weld*. On the flipside, birds singing like Western Warbling Vireos (*V. g. swainsoni*) were encountered rather far e., the most remarkable of which was at Burchfield S.W.A., *Baca* 12 May (SGM, NM); this bird was less than 10 km from Kansas. Philadelphia Vireos showed well, with singles at Lamar 11 May (D. & H. Gilillan) and Burchfield S.W.A. 12 May (SGM, ph. NM); one or 2 per spring is typical. A Pinyon Jay at Kelly, *Teton* 20 Mar (BB) was in the nw. corner of Wyoming, where accidental. Four wayward Steller's Jays were at SCA Glory Recreation Area, *Laramie*, WY 31 Mar (JSa, V. Zero), and a Common Raven at Rozet, *Campbell* 18 May was in far ne. Wyoming, where rare (M. Mizak).

A remarkable 2500 Violet-green and 2500 Cliff Swallows swarmed over Marston Res., *Denver* 12 May (NL et al.). A Violet-green

Swallow at Hereford Ranch 19 May (S. Lowry, BG, M. Gorges) was out on Wyoming's e. plains, where rare. In Wyoming, the distribution of Juniper Titmouse is closely linked to mature Utah Juniper woodlands in *Carbon*, *Sweetwater*, and *Uinta*; away from these areas, this species is accidental, with the easternmost records coming from *Fremont* and *Natrona*. Thus one at Guernsey S.P., *Platte* 22 Apr (MC, S. Carling) was most unusual. The ranges of Interior Montane and Eastern White-breasted Nuthatches (*S. c. nelsoni* group and *S. c. carolinensis*, respectively) are still being worked out. The two taxa overlap over a small region along the Front Range and w. edge of the Eastern Plains during winter, but the presence of 3 Eastern and 2 Interior Montane birds at Barr L., *Adams* (where no White-breasted Nuthatches are known to breed) on 31 May (SGM) suggests that there may be a very limited contact zone during the breeding season. Only one Winter Wren was located this spring, and that one was on the West Slope, where far from annual: near Whitewater, *Mesa* 21 Apr (SGM, LA). A Marsh Wren at St. Vrain 3 Mar (†SGM) sang, and looked, like an **Eastern Marsh Wren** (*C. p. dissaepus* group); this accounts for just the 2nd state report (the previous one was not documented), though its occurrence in Colorado is somewhat expected, as Eastern Marsh Wrens breed w. to northern Alberta and e. Montana. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Bonny 10 Apr (MO et al.) was about a week early for Colorado. The easternmost report for Western Blue-grays (identification primarily by voice) came from Jackson S.P., Morgan 24 May (SGM).

Two wintering American Dippers continued through at least 28 Apr in flatland *Adams* (R. Canter), a time at which even the highest-elevation breeders are on territory. An Eastern Bluebird at Chico, *El Paso* 19 May (BKP, BM) was rather late away from the breeding grounds, while one at Hereford Ranch 1 Apr (BG) was at the e. edge of Wyoming, where but a few are found each year away from their very local breeding area in *Crook*. Veery numbers from the e. plains were exceptional, with at least 32 birds detected 6–28 May; maxima were of 3 each at Crow Valley 12 May (GW, LK) and Chico, *El Paso* 16 May (NG et al.). In Wyoming, a migrant Veery was at Hereford Ranch 19 May (GJ). A Gray-cheeked Thrush at Crow Valley 29 Apr (ph. NM, †SGM) was about 10 days early and heralded an excellent spring for this species during which 8 others were documented through 30 May; the season's total included 1 each from *El Paso*, *Larimer*, and *Pueblo*; 2 from *Washington*; and 3 from *Weld*. A Swainson's Thrush at Stulp's 21 Apr (JSt) was five days ahead of the earliest Colorado record in eBird. A well-studied **Russet-backed**

Swainson's Thrush (*C. u. ustulatus* group) lingered at Stulp's 13-16 May (†SGM, ph. JSt, NM), providing approximately the 7th record for Colorado. An apparent Russet-backed x Olive-backed intergrade was at Crow Valley 24 May (SGM, ph. examined by K. Ruegg); some data suggest that Russet-backed and Olive-backed may be distinct species. The 3 Wood Thrushes reported this spring beat the seasonal average of one: singles at Elbert Ranch, *El Paso* 28 Apr (ph. GW), Chico, *El Paso* 12-14 May (NG, BKP), and Brett Gray 13 May (ph. GW).

MIMIDS THROUGH WARBLERS

Early mimids included a Gray Catbird along the Animas R., *La Plata* 18 Apr (about two weeks early; JDB) and 2 Brown Thrashers at Lamar 31 Mar (about 10 days early; MP, BSt). In Wyoming, extralimital Northern Mockingbirds included one slightly nw. of the species' usual range at Fremont, *Fremont* 19 May (D. Jones) and a very rare *Teton* sighting from Kelly 5 May (BB). A Curve-billed Thrasher (*oberholseri*) at Crow Valley 3 May (ph. SGM, NM) provided one of but a few *Weld* records and was about 200 km n. of the species' usual range. Rare in May, even in Wyoming, a Bohemian Waxwing visited Kelly 5 May (BB). Six Chestnut-collared Longspurs from three different *Weld* locations 29 Mar were about 10 days early (NM, SGM). The 1100 McCown's Longspurs at BYO Playa, Pawnee N.G., *Weld* 29 Mar (SGM, NM) were somewhat early for so many. The first McCown's reported in Wyoming this season was at Hutton L. 6 Apr (JG, JM, MC, MJ).

Subpar were this spring's Colorado tallies of many eastern warblers. One Blue-winged Warbler near Karval 1 May (AB) was the only one found, and the totals of 5 Black-and-white (11 Apr-19 May), 4 Nashville (28 Apr-13 May), 3 Magnolia (26-31 May), 7 Chestnut-sided (6-31 May), 8 Blackpoll (6-25 May), and 7 Palm (28 Apr-19 May) Warblers were all lower than average. This spring's 4 Worm-eating Warblers, 21 Apr-15 May, was fairly typical, except that one was at Zapata Ranch, *Alamosa* (†C. Pague), accounting for the 2nd documented Colorado occurrence w. of the Front Range, both from the San Luis Valley. Early Black-and-white Warblers were at Stulp's 11-14 Apr (JSt) and record early (and sole report) for Wyoming by a week at Holliday Park, *Laramie* 21 Apr (M. Schilling). Single Prothonotary Warblers enlivened Sondermann Park, *El Paso* 26 Apr (J. Maynard) and Holyoke, *Phillips* 24-25 May (R. Linfield, ph. SGM), representing a typical spring tally for Colorado. Seven Tennessee Warblers, about average, visited Colorado 4-19 May. Orange-crowned Warblers seemed rather scarce this spring, with the Colorado maximum tally reaching only 13. Of interest, however,

were Orange-crowns at Rangely, *Rio Blanco* 11 Apr (H. Ford) and Dixon Res., *Larimer* 13 Apr (CC); the first usually arrive in the 3rd week of Apr. An apparent **Lutescent Orange-crowned Warbler** (*O. c. lutescens*) graced Mud Springs, *Mesa* 22 Apr (ph. SGM, LA). A **Lucy's Warbler** at Chico, *El Paso* 20 Apr (BKP, m.ob.) would provide only the 3rd accepted record from Colorado away from the species' breeding haunt in the extreme sw. corner of the state. A goodly 3 Kentucky Warblers were found this spring, with individuals at Chico, *Pueblo* 23 Apr (BKP, JD), Van's Grove, *Bent* 1 May (DN), and Norma's Grove, *Weld* 16 May (ph. AC, CC).

The 16 Hooded Warblers detected in Colorado 28 Apr-27 May was >50% above the mean and included a rare montane sighting, from DeWeese Res., *Custer* 9 May (RM). A Cape May Warbler, not annual in the state, visited Stulp's 26-28 Apr (†JSt, m.ob.); notably, this bird provided the state's 15th spring record and was found at the same place and on the same date in 2010 as the state's 14th spring record. A stunning 26 Northern Parulas were found along the Front Range and on the e. plains 13 Apr-31 May, Colorado's 2nd "best" spring, following the 36 found during 2010. A Bay-breasted Warbler graced Burchfield S.W.A. 12 May (SGM, NM); the state averages about one per year. On 19-20 May, single Blackburnian Warblers brightened Boulder (B. Webb, ph. D. Waltman) and Thompson Ranch, *Lincoln* (ph. GW), an average Colorado showing. A Yellow Warbler at Walden Ponds, *Boulder* 14 Apr (S. Frye) was about 10 days early. A Chestnut-sided Warbler was in the mts., where not annual, along Trail Ridge Rd., Rocky Mountain N.P., *Larimer* 16 May (B. & S. Maxson). Above normal in spring, 5 Black-throated Blue Warblers were noted from Colorado 5-31 May, with 2 in *Prowers* and singles in *Baca*, *Bent*, and *Weld*. Black-throated Blue is more common in fall in the Region.

Single Yellow-throated Warblers were at Norma's Grove 5 May (S. Davenport), Chico, *El Paso* 16-20 May (BKP, BM), and near Karval 24 May (AB); the species has recently become annual in Colorado. A Townsend's Warbler enlivened Chico, *El Paso* 2 May (MP, BM); though an uncommon migrant throughout the state during fall, one per spring is the norm. A Wilson's Warbler at Stulp's 8 Apr (JSt) was about two weeks earlier than typical.



Eastern Towhee has been found to be nearly annual in Colorado as a late-fall migrant and winterer, but actual spring migrants are very rare. This first-cycle female was found in a yard that is birded almost daily south of Lamar, *Prowers* 26 April 2012. Photograph by Jane Stulp.

TOWHEES THROUGH FINCHES

Tamarack S.W.A., *Logan* remains the hotbed for towhee hybrids in Colorado, with 3 Spotted Towhee x Eastern Towhee hybrids there 25 May (ph. SGM); these birds likely stayed on for the summer, but one at Crow Valley 3 May (SGM) was a migrant. "Pure" Eastern Towhees were discerned at Stulp's 26 Apr (JSt, ph. D. Leatherman), Chico, *Pueblo* 3-4 May (†BKP), and Cottonwood Canyon, *Las Animas* 12 May (†SGM); this species is usually exceptionally rare during spring, excluding overwintering birds. A singing Cassin's Sparrow near Holly, *Prowers* 31 Mar (MP, BSt) was a goodly three weeks early, and another on the Comanche N.G., *Baca* 9 Apr was also a bit premature (MO et al.). The wintering Chipping Sparrow stayed in Loveland, *Larimer* through 5 Apr (S. Walters), while an apparent migrant visited Drake's L., *Weld* 4 Mar (SGM, TS); migrants typically do not arrive until Apr. A Clay-colored Sparrow w. of Campo, *Baca* 14 Apr (MP, SGM) was about 10 days early, while one at Pastorius S.W.A., *La Plata* 6 May (JDB) was on the West Slope, where rare. Field Sparrows well w. of Colorado's e. border included a singing bird at Cañon City, *Fremont* 29 Apr (BKP et al.), 3 at Brett Gray 28 Apr (GW), and one near Karval 26-28 Apr (AB). Two Black-chinned Sparrows returned to Colorado N.M., *Mesa* 9 Apr+ (LA, m.ob.), and another was near Walsenburg, *Huerfano* 27 May (†S. Craig); there are only two antecedent records for the state, multiple birds in *La Plata* in summer 2010 and a single bird in *Prowers* in fall 2006. Single errant Black-throated Sparrows were near Ketrang Park, *Arapahoe* 13 Apr (H. Stratton) and at Boulder 13 May (E. Miller, S. Wagner). It was a good spring for stray Sage Sparrows, with one at Brush Hollow Res., *Fremont* 6 Apr (J. Lake) and 3 in *Boulder*: one each at Coalton Trail 16 Mar (R. Bucknam), Walden Ponds 20 Mar (Darren Dowell, DD), and Stearns L. 7-8 Apr (TF); the appearance of wayward Sage Sparrows tends to

be coincidental with their arrival on West Slope breeding grounds. A Lark Bunting in *Pueblo* 8 Apr (A. Simmons) was about two weeks early, while a pair in the Axial Basin, *Moffat* 24 May (C. Dodson) was nw. of the species' usual range in Colorado. The swarm of 2400 Lark Buntings across *Weld's* Pawnee N.G. 12 May (David Ely) must have made an impressive sight.

Both a Savannah Sparrow at SEEF Colorado, *Weld* 20 Mar (J. Russell) and a Grasshopper Sparrow at Bledsoe Ranch, *Yuma* 17 Apr (J. Roseneder) were about two weeks early. A stunning **Harris's Sparrow x White-crowned Sparrow** hybrid occupied Valco Ponds S.W.A., *Pueblo* 24 Mar–3 Apr (D. Chartier, ph. BKP); this cross has apparently been reported but once before (McCarthy, E. M. 2006. *Handbook of Avian Hybrids of the World*. Oxford University Press). The identification of dark-lored White-crowned Sparrows e. of the breeding range of *Z. l. oriantha* in the Rockies remains clouded. It is notable that most of the dark-lored White-crowns this spring were from the cen. or e. portion of the Plains, with the only exception being an early Mar bird in Boulder, a good month before *oriantha* arrives in the state. As with recent fall data, this pattern suggests that these easterly dark-lored birds are of the nominate subspecies and not the Rocky Mountain breeders. Unfortunately, none sang, which would have allowed proper classification. Wintering Golden-crowned Sparrows lingered at Teller Farms, *Boulder* until 20 Apr and Red Rocks, *Jefferson* until 15 Apr (both m.ob.). A Pink-sided Junco at Cow Springs, *Mesa* 22 Apr (SGM, LA) was performing a distraction display, suggesting local breeding (though perhaps not with another Pink-sided Junco); the nearest regular breeding site for this subspecies is in s. Wyoming. Gray-headed Juncos are surprisingly unusual on the Eastern Plains, despite being common residents down to the lower foothills. This spring, singles were found in Crow Valley 7 Apr (GW), at the Thompson Ranch 27 Apr (JK, GW), and near Grover, *Weld* 3 May (NM, SGM); notably, spring Gray-headed on the e. plains tend to occur later in the season, when most other juncos have departed.

A male Hepatic Tanager was a mite early and a bit out of range at Brett Gray 13 May (ph. GW) and provided a *Lincoln* first; occurrences outside the restricted breeding range in

Colorado are rare. Approximately 30 migrant Summer Tanagers 24 Apr+ represents an exceptional seasonal total; 2 were on the West Slope, where rare: *El Jebel*, *Garfield* 7–8 May (M. Harris) and *Steamboat*, *Routt* 10–13 May (K. Proper). Scarlet Tanagers graced Colorado at *Wellington*, *Larimer* 16 May (ph. AC, CC), *Chico*, *Pueblo* 17 May (JD), and near *Karval* 30–31 May (AB); the normal tally is 1–2 per year. A Western Tanager at *Panama Res.*, *Boulder* 1 Apr (SGM, TS) was about three weeks early but did not presage a good spring for this species. Indeed, migrant Western Tanagers away from the mts. were rather scarce (e.g., SGM encountered >100 migrant Western Tanagers during spring 2011 but only 8 this spring). One or 2 Northern Cardinals were present in the *Pueblo* area through most of the season (M. Joy, m.ob.), and one was at *Brett Gray* 13 May (GW); this species seems to be spreading slowly westward, mostly along major river corridors, but is still rare away from eastern-most Colorado, especially as far w. as the Front Range. In Wyoming, a **Northern Cardinal** appeared *Laramie*, *Albany* 4 May (A. Rose); about half of Wyoming's 15 records of this species are from spring, most from the e. third of the state. A Black-headed Grosbeak at *Chatfield* 17 Apr (K. Peterson) was about 10 days early. An Indigo Bunting in *Otero* 19 Apr (S. Dietrich-Schneider) was about seven days early; and quite early for the mts., where rare, was one at *Georgetown*, *Clear Creek* 22 Apr (ph. SGM). A male Painted Bunting stayed 11–27 May at *Two Buttes* S.W.A., *Baca* (J. Rawinski, MP); this species averages 1–2 per spring/summer in Colorado, typically in the se., though the very n. tip of the breeding range abuts the state. The 7 male Bobolinks at *Estes Park*, *Larimer* 11 May (SGM) were locally very rare; there are isolated breeding outposts in the state w. of the Front Range. A male near *Mack* 21 May (JD et al.) provided a very rare *Mesa* record. A *Lilian's* Meadowlark (*S. m. lilianae*) was 35 km w. of *Campo* 14 Apr (ph. †SGM, MP); most Colorado records of this subspecies are from well e. of *Campo*. A cooperative Eastern Meadowlark (*S. m. magna*) sang away at *Greenlee Preserve*, *Boulder* 23 May (v.r., †TF); this widespread North American subspecies of Eastern Meadowlark has been less than annual in Colorado for several decades now, its ne.

Colorado nesting grounds no longer occupied.

Approximately 11 Bullock's Oriole x Baltimore Oriole hybrids were discerned, with reports from *Baca*, *Boulder*, *Kit Carson*, *Logan*, *Philips*, *Prowers*, *Sedgwick*, *Weld*, and *Yuma*. Baltimore Orioles have been rare but annual w. to the Front Range during recent years; this spring's was at *Chico*, *Pueblo* 16–17 May (JD). An out-of-place Scott's Oriole visited a *La Veta* yard 30 Apr (B. Jensen) and would provide a *Huerfano* first. Exceedingly rare on Colorado's e. plains at any time, a flock of 50 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches near *Carr*, *Weld* 14 May (C. Bell) was about three weeks late for anywhere in Colorado. Four Common Redpolls at *Bear L.*, *Larimer* 5 Mar (D. Evers) were the last of this winter's modest showing. An impressive 225 Common Redpolls were tallied at *Dunraven Pass*, *Yellowstone N.P.*, *Park* 5 Mar (D. Dubie), while a congregation of 500+ Evening Grosbeaks at *Paonia*, *Delta* 16 May (JBn) was exceptional.

Undocumented rarities: The following review species were without documentation: Neotropic Cormorant (*El Paso*, *Otero*); Least Bittern (*Fremont*); **Harris's Hawk** (*Prowers*); Short-billed Dowitcher (*Weld* thrice); Laughing Gull (*Bent*, *Pueblo*); Snowy Owl (*El Paso*); Alder Flycatcher (*Yuma*); Philadelphia Vireo (*Baca*); Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Cheyenne*); Golden-winged Warbler (*El Paso*); Eastern Towhee (*Bent*, *Logan*); Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Prowers*); Eastern (*Lilian's*) Meadowlark (*Baca*).

Cited observers (subregional editors in bold-face): Jean Adams (JnA), Jennifer Adams (JrA), Larry Arnold, Andy Bankert, Jason Beason, **Jim D. Beatty** (sw. Colorado), Bryan Bedrosian, Matt Carling, **Coen Dexter** (CDE, w.-cen. Colorado), Andrew Core, Cade Cropper, David Dowell, **John Drummond** (se. Colorado), Dick Filby, Ted Floyd, Jeff Garcia, Nancy Gobris, Barb Gorges, Greg Johnson, Matt Jones, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Norm Lewis, **Forrest Luke** (nw. Colorado), Jeff Maley, Bill Maynard, Rich Miller, Steven G. Mlodinow, Nick Moore, Duane Nelson, Michael O'Brien, **Brandon K. Percival** (*Pueblo* area), Mark Peterson, Jacob Saucier (JSa), Bill Schmoker, Tim Smart, Brad Steger (BSt), Jane Stulp (JSt), **Glenn Walbek** (montane Colorado), Jason Whitmore, Brenda Wright. Many other individuals contributed information to this report but could not be acknowledged here; all have our appreciation. ☺

Tony Leukering, 102 Delaware Avenue, Villas, New Jersey 08251, (greatgrayowl@aol.com)
Steven G. Mlodinow, 2218 Watersong Circle, Longmont, Colorado 80504, (SGMlod@aol.com)

SA Great-tailed Grackles exploded across Wyoming this spring, 28 Mar+. Faulkner (2010. *Birds of Wyoming*) noted approximately 25 reports of Great-tailed Grackle from Wyoming, 9 of which were from the Goshen Hole area. This spring (with numbers peaking 7–22 Apr), there were reports from five locations in *Albany*, with a maximum of 20 at *Meeboer L.* 9 Apr (JM) and two locations each in *Goshen*, *Laramie*, and *Natrona*, with a maximum of 20 at *Haven* 10 Apr (A. Hines). There were also 2 birds in the sw. corner of the state at *Woodruff Narrows Res.*, *Uinta* 5 May (JW) and one in the ne. corner at *Kelly*, *Teton* 5 May (BB).

Idaho & Western Montana



David Trochlell

Spring 2012 weather was mild throughout the Region. Above-average temperatures and precipitation prevailed in the first two months, followed by average atmospheric conditions in May. Overall, plant phenology and bird migration were said to be early. The only reported notable weather-induced event of the season was a significant die-off of early nesting insectivores, such as bluebirds and swallows, in southwestern Montana during an extended cold and snowy four days in late May.

WATERFOWL THROUGH VIREOS

The only Cackling Goose reported was in Madison, ID 10 Mar (ph., †BD), where there are few precedents. A Bewick's Swan that stopped in Kootenai 24 Mar (ph., †LH) provided Idaho's 4th record. Nine Eurasian Wigeons represented an above-average season. A Eurasian Teal documented in Kootenai 10-18 Mar (ph., †LH) represented Idaho's 3rd record. A Snowy Egret was out of range near Warm Springs, MT 18 May (ph. NK). Single Idaho Glossy Ibis discovered in Jefferson 19 Apr (ph. JC, TM) and in Challis 26-28 Apr (ph. D&EF) add to 12 previously accepted records. Although reports of Black-necked Stilt are increasing in the n. portions of the Region, 8 observed in Kootenai, ID 21 Apr (PL) were considered noteworthy. Record early by a week was a Willet near Dillon, MT 10 Apr (SSh). Whimbrels, normally rare migrants, were unusually plentiful in Idaho: 2 in Minidoka 21 Apr (ph. †KM), 2 at Camas 4 May (ph. †DCI), 3 in Fremont 10 May (ph., †CW), and one in Jefferson 23 May (DCI). Undoubtedly the shorebird of the season was a Ruddy Turnstone spotted in Fremont 12 May (†CW), Idaho's 5th record and first in spring. Rare Short-billed Dowitchers stopped at Island Park Res., ID, with 10 seen 2 May and one there 12 May (ph., †CW).

Idaho's 7th Little Gull was well documented in Fremont 25-28 Apr (ph., †CW). An Iceland

Gull present in n. Idaho since 8 Jan was last reported 23 Mar. The season's rare gull tally included an impressive 3 Mew, one Thayer's, and one Lesser Black-backed. A flock of 12 Sabine's Gulls spotted at Flathead L. 28 May (DC) represented Montana's 2nd spring record. A Band-tailed Pigeon was an excellent find near Kalispell, MT 12-18 May (ph. DC, JW). The White-winged Dove in Pocatello, ID since 15 Jan remained until 3 Mar (CT). Record late in Montana were single Snowy Owls near Polson (JR) and near Kalispell 24 Apr (m.ob.). An Eastern Phoebe near Coolin, ID 16 May (ph. †RB) would provide Idaho's 8th record. Far out of range was a Say's Phoebe in Kootenai, ID 23 Mar (KB, DW). The bird of the season was a White-eyed Vireo at Camas 5-19 May (ph., †DCI) that furnished Idaho's first record. Also exciting was a stunning Yellow-throated Vireo in Jefferson 23-30 May (ph. JC) that will bring in Idaho's 3rd record.

JAYS THROUGH FINCHES

Idaho's only reported Blue Jay was at Blackfoot 17-19 May (BC). Extremely rare in sw. Idaho was a Western Scrub-Jay near Caldwell 11 Apr (MA, MHu). More evidence of Bewick's Wren range expansion were sightings in Adams, ID 10 Mar (†CH) and at Troy, MT 1 May (DJ). Three Northern Mockingbirds recorded in s. Idaho locations represented an above-average season. Always rare and unexpected in w. Montana was a Sage Thrasher near Round Butte, MT 10 Apr (BR). With only 11 verified precedents and no record of breeding, a pair of territorial Tennessee Warblers documented n. of Prichard, ID 31 May (MH) was interesting. The only reported Northern Parula was in Beaverhead, MT 22 May (ph. MW). A Chestnut-sided Warbler near Bozeman, MT 26-28 May (JP) represented a 4th local record. Montana's 11th Black-throated Gray Warbler was near Bozeman, MT 26-29 May (JP). Record early by four days was a Townsend's Warbler at Niarada, MT 22 Apr (BL, LK). One of

the headline events of the season was the discovery of a Worm-eating Warbler at Camas 19 May (ph. DCI, JCI), which provided Idaho's 2nd record. A Hooded Warbler documented in Butte, ID 8-9 May (SB) will be Idaho's 4th.

Both far out of range and unprecedented was a Black-throated Sparrow n. of Sandpoint, ID 24-31 May (ph., †RD) and a Sage Sparrow at Lee Metcalf N.W.R., MT 11 Apr (JCe, SW). Single Lark Buntings also strayed: one stopped at Island Park, ID 16 May (CW), and another was in Glacier N.P., MT 28 May (ph. SG). Five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks represented a better-than-average season's tally. Indigo Buntings, not annual, showed up near Glacier N.P., MT 20 Apr (T&DD) and at Challis, ID 14-15 May (D&EF). A wayward Dickcissel that enlivened Gardiner 17 May (LW) was record early in Montana and provided a first for Latilong 39. The only Rusty Blackbird was at Lee Metcalf N.W.R., MT 11 Mar (ph. RI). Both states had reports of Great-tailed Grackle: one continued at Bozeman throughout the season, and 5 were noted in se. Idaho. Amazingly, at least 2 Baltimore Orioles graced the Livingston, MT area 23-26 May (ED,



This Yellow-throated Vireo at Market Lake Wildlife Management Area, Jefferson County, Idaho 23 May 2012 (here) was found by Jay Carlisle. It stayed around the site for five days, to the delight of many other birders. It furnished Idaho's third record. Photograph by Darren Clark.



On 19 May 2012 (here), James Cleaver found a singing male Worm-eating Warbler at Camas National Wildlife Refuge. The bird was seen and documented by others that day but not thereafter. Idaho has just one previous record of the species. Photograph by Darren Clark.

L&RF MiH); the species is not annual in the Region. With only four accepted precedents in Idaho, putative **Hoary Redpolls** were photographed at New Meadows 4 Mar (ph., †JC) and in *Latah* 12 Mar (TG). Perhaps more evidence of **Lesser Goldfinch** range expansion was one near Hamilton, MT 8 Mar (J&TM), a 3rd record for w. Montana.

Contributors (subregional editors in boldface):

Mary Alexander, Robert Bond, Kris Buchler, Steve Butterworth, **Kathleen Cameron**, Jay Carlisle, Brian Carrigan, Dan Casey, Jerry Cebola (JCe), Darren Clark (DCI), James Cleaver (JCI), Bob Davis, Rich DelCarlo, Terry & Dennis Divoky, Elizabeth Douglass, Dave and Elise Faiké, Linda & Ray Forrest, Steve Gniadek, Terry Gray, Mike Haldeman, Lisa Hardy, Cheryl Huizinga, Marilyn Hultz (MHu), Mitch Hurt (MiH), Rad Icenogge, Don Jones, Leslie Kehoe,

Nate Kohler, Bob Lee, Paul Lehman, Theresa Meachum, Jon & Theresa Milak, Kathy Morris, **John Parker**, Jim Rogers, Bob Rost, Steve Sherman (SSh), **Shirley Sturts**, Chuck Trost, Sara Walker, Jan Wassink, **Cliff Weisse**, Lori Wilkinson, Michael Woodruff, Dave Worthington, **Poo Wright-Pulliam**. ☸

David Trochlell, 2409 East N Avenue,
La Grande, Oregon 97850, (dtrochlell@frontier.com)

New Mexico



Sartor O. Williams III

Spring 2012 saw deepening drought continue over most of New Mexico. The ongoing drought, together with unusually warm temperatures and occasional strong winds, made conditions very difficult for resident and returning migrant birds. Spring migration was considered a disappointment by many, especially as regards common western species, such as flycatchers and warblers. Nevertheless, birders focusing on the eastern plains found an unusually large array of eastern vagrants, including such rarities as Gray-cheeked Thrush and Canada Warbler. Thanks to Bill Howe and John Parmeter for proofreading this report.

Abbreviations: B.D. (Boone's Draw sw. of Portales, Roosevelt); B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte Lake); N.R.T. (n. Roosevelt migrant trap w. of Melrose); P.O. Canyon (Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs and vicinity, Eddy); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

An ad. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was at

Clovis 4 & 18 May (JP, JO); the species has been annual in New Mexico for the past three years. Four Tundra Swans lingered at Las Vegas N.W.R. 13 Mar (CB); surprisingly late was one at Bosque 10-11 May (CR) and possibly the same one n. to Cochiti L. 14 May (M. Gustafson). Single male **Eurasian Wigeons** were near Williamsburg 24 Mar (ph. DC) and at Ute L. 14 May (ph. WWi). Mexican Ducks outnumbered Mallards 52 to 5 in *Hidalgo* (AC) and 42 to 3 in *Doña Ana* (MS) 12 May; a pair was n. to Corrales 25 Mar (DK) and a male was e. to Brantley L. 22 May (SW). A male Surf Scoter lingered at Bosque from 31 Mar (ph. GF) through 25 Apr (CS, m.ob., ph.); a female Surf was late at L. Avalon 16 May (LM). A Pacific Loon at Holloman L. 23 Apr (CG, ph. DS) provided the lone report. A pair of Eared Grebes was seen building a nest at Clovis 15 May (ph. CW). The 19 Neotropical Cormorants at Albuquerque's Tingley Beach from 6 Mar into Jun (ph. WH, DH, m.ob.) represented the largest number yet for *Bernalillo*; far e. was one at Clovis 9 May (JP), while notable for *Eddy* were 2 at Six Mile Dam 22 Mar (ph. RN). An imm. Brown Pelican was at E.B.L. 15 Apr (ph. DC, ph. CW, NP), where it remained into May.

American Bitterns were seldom reported were singles at E.B.L. 9 May (LM) and L. Avalon 22 Apr (EP). Rare in recent years, single ad. Little Blue Herons were at Santa Fe's Las Campanas 12 May (RC, WE, ph. JB) and at B.L.N.W.R. 2 May (ph. JS); an ad. Tricolored Heron was at E.B.L. 27-28 Apr (ph. DC). A **Reddish Egret** was at Ute L. 29 May-1 Jun (ph. WWi), the 2nd consecutive year for the species there. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were again much in evidence, with an ad. at Bosque 28 Apr (ph. CB, ph. CS) and a remarkable 3 there from 29 May into Jun (ph. CS); elsewhere, single ads. were at Roswell 9 May (ph. C. Powell) and Leasburg S.P. 10-12 May (ph. CG, ph. NS, MS). Now regular in spring, single ad. Glossy Ibis were at Bosque 6-7 Apr (GF, JP, JO, CR) and 14 May (ph. JO) and at n. Las Cruces 14 Apr (CR, MS, JZ, ph. DG); an ibis resembling a Glossy

but with a red eye was also at Bosque 7 Apr (JP). Two White-tailed Kites were in the San Simon Valley n. of Rodeo 16 May (ph. BZ), and singles were in the Animas Valley 11 May (CR), Hachita Valley 31 May (SOW), and n. in the R.G.V. to Bosque 31 Mar (GF). A pair of Mississippi Kites was nesting at Clayton 28 May (DLW), where only recently established. Seven active Bald Eagle territories were documented, one in *Catron*, two in *Rio Arriba*, and three in *Colfax*, all traditional territories, plus a new one in *Union* (fide D. Stahlecker); ads. lingered into May at sites in *Taos* and *San Miguel*, but nesting was not confirmed at either. Common Black-Hawks again populated the R.G.V., with reports from *Espanola* (ph. J. Moeny) s. through *Isleta* (CB, G. Garber, TA, ph. CW), *Bosque* (CS, JO), *Las Animas Creek* (DC), *Percha* (CR), and *Mesilla Valley S.P.* (DG); noteworthy for the lower Pecos Valley was one at R.S. 4-5 May (VD). A Harris's Hawk was n. to Bosque Redondo 5 Apr (VD); at least one pair was nesting at Las Cruces 5 May (CR), where seen all season (ph. JZ). Northbound Broad-winged Hawks were singles at 10 sites from the R.G.V. eastward 18 Apr-13 May (m.ob.). Gray Hawks returned to R.S. by 31 Mar (SW, RN), where nest-building was in progress 21 Apr (MH); others were seen in Guadalupe Canyon and the middle Animas Valley 12 May (fide AC). Some 23 Swainson's Hawks were on the ground at upper Caballo L. 11 May (ph. DC), catching invertebrates being displaced by the lake's rising waters. A Zone-tailed Hawk strayed e. to Clovis 1 Apr (P. McDaniel); singles were noted in *Socorro* at Bosque 23 Apr (TK) and East Red Canyon, San Mateo Mts. 12 May (SM) and in *Sierra* on Las Animas Cr. 29 Apr (RM) and at Hillsboro 5 May (CR). Lingered Harlan's Hawks were singles at La Cieneguilla 4 Mar (JB) and Valmora 11 Mar (CR). A Merlin was late at Las Campanas 22 Apr (WE).

PLOVERS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

Among several reports of Black-bellied Plover, 5 were together at Bosque 13 May (CR).



Providing a Curry County first, and the earliest yet documented for New Mexico, this adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbird was southwest of Clovis 23 April 2012. Photograph by Debra Whitecotton.

An **American Golden-Plover** was a treat at B.L.N.W.R. 6 May (NP, ph. MB). A **Snowy Plover** pair was tending small chicks at Holloman L. on the early date of 4 May (ph. BZ). Three **American Avocets** were on eggs at E.B.L. 20 May (ph. DC). Willets were noted statewide 19 Apr–27 May, including high counts of 71 at Holloman L. 4 May (ph. BZ) and 62 at Apache Creek, *Catron* 29 Apr (DH). A good **Whimbrel** season found singles at Brantley L. 2 May (ph. RN) and B.L.N.W.R. 12 May (JP, JO) and 2 at Bosque 4 May (CB). An impressive 205 **Marbled Godwits** were at E.B.L. 20 Apr (ph. DC); up to 100 were at B.L.N.W.R. the same day (MH, JP). A **Ruddy Turnstone** made a one-day visit to Holloman L. 21 May (CG, ph. DS). An early **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at Ned Houk Park n. of Clovis 9 May (JP); others were at four additional sites after 17 May, including a high 23 at Maxwell N.W.R. 29 May (ph. L. Wilkins). A late **Dunlin** was at B.L.N.W.R. 15 May (ph. CW).

Early **Franklin's Gulls** were singles at Sunland Park 12 Mar (DB) and E.B.L. 17 Mar (CR); impressive numbers moved across the state on a broad front in mid-Apr, including 200 at Sumner L. 13 Apr (JO), 250 at Cochiti L. 17 Apr (D. Yeamans), 86 at Heron L. 17 Apr (LM), and 114 at B.L.N.W.R. 18 Apr (JS). Lingering from Feb, an ad. **Mew Gull** was at Albuquerque's Alameda bridge until 4 Mar (TK). Late **Herring Gulls** were singles at B.L.N.W.R. 2 May (JS) and E.B.L. 5–9 May (CR, LM). Continuing from winter at E.B.L. were a first-cycle **Thayer's Gull** 2 Mar (JO), an ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** through Mar (JO, CR, ph. DC) until 6 Apr (JP, JO), and an imm. **Glaucous Gull** last seen 2–4 Mar (JO, DC). A high 12 **Least Terns** were at Brantley L. 22 May (SW) but were not seen there later. **Caspian Terns** were noted at E.B.L. 28 Apr–4 May, with a remarkable 6 there 29 Apr (RM). Early **Band-tailed Pigeons** were at Silver City 11 Mar (KB). For unknown reasons, **Inca Doves** have largely disappeared from

many areas, e.g., Deming (LM) and Carlsbad (SW); one at Albuquerque 7 Apr (JP) was one of the few there in recent years. The apparently lone **Monk Parakeet** continued to tend a roost structure near the Alameda bridge, where seen 2 Apr–1 May (CH, HT, m.ob.). Noteworthy for Curry was a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** s. of Cannon A.F.B. 30 May (ph. DW); others included singles at Galisteo 27–28 May (JB, BF), N.R.T. 27 May (JP, JO), E.B.L. Dam 21 May (DC), and R.S. 27 May (SW). In *Santa Fe*, **Barn Owls** were nesting in a box near Nambe 5 Apr (EM) and in a cavity at Caja del Rio 31 May (JB). Although

seemingly counterintuitive, the e. plains is one of the best places to actually see—as opposed to only hear—**Flammulated Owls**; this season produced singles at B.D. 27 Apr (MB, NP) and 5 May (MB) and at Oasis S.P. 5 May (ph. DW). The earliest **Elf Owl** was one in Guadalupe Canyon 10 Mar (CGL); others of note were singles in Chloride Canyon, Black Range 12 May (DC), and Soledad Canyon, Organ Mts. 4 May (DG, CR), with 3 along Rocky Arroyo, *Eddy* 6 May (RN, EP). **Burrowing Owl** populations reportedly have crashed in several areas, including at Santa Fe, where 40 pairs in 2008 were reduced to six pairs in 2012 (J. Walters), and Holloman A.F.B., where about 52 pairs in 1998 were down to about 11 pairs in 2012 (C. Finley); a lone pair at Deming 14 Mar (LM) was described as the last pair in the area. A **Long-eared Owl** nest in n. *Santa Fe* had at least 2 chicks 23 May (BF). Beyond expected range was a **Lesser Nighthawk** at B.D. 19 May (NP, DK). Very early for the n., a vocal **Common Poorwill** was near Las Vegas 14 Mar (J. Witters).

SWIFTS THROUGH TITMICE

A **Chimney Swift** seen and heard at Carlsbad 11 Apr (RN) was early by two weeks; up to 6 were noted at and near Clovis 28 Apr–11 May (JP, JO, ph. NH). Single ad. male **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were in s. Curry 23 Apr (ph. DW) and at N.R.T. 15–19 May (m.ob., ph.). A female **Anna's Hummingbird** incubating eggs along Indian Cr., Animas Mts. 12 May (CR et al.) provided the 3rd New Mexico nesting record in recent years; single hatch-year **Anna's** were at P. O. Canyon 28 & 30 May (CDL). Six northbound **Calliope Hummingbirds** passed through P. O. Canyon 25 Mar–22 Apr (CDL), and one was at Deming 14 Apr (LM). Surprising was a **Rufous Hummingbird** e. to s. Curry 29–30 Apr (ph. DW); some 44 northbound **Rufous** were tallied at P. O. Canyon 25 Mar–28 Apr (CDL). A male **Belted Kingfisher** was near a fresh nesting burrow along the Mora R.

upstream from Watrous 12 May (DK et al.). A **Lewis's Woodpecker** strayed far e. to B.D. 5 May (MB, NP, JP). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was w. to Galisteo 22 May (ph. BF, ph. JB); at least three pairs were in residence at B.D. by 31 May (NP), and, notable for *Lea*, a pair was near Hobbs 28 May (DH). Among the few detailed **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** reports were a juv. at Conchas Dam 3 Mar (JP) and a female at R.S. 21 Apr (RN). Perhaps owing to recent fires, **American Three-toed Woodpeckers** seem to be thriving in New Mexico, with reports this season from *Sandoval*, *Santa Fe*, *San Miguel*, *Bernalillo*, and *Sierra*. An intergrade **Northern Flicker** was delivering food to a nest cavity at Galisteo 31 May (ph. JB); an apparently pure **Yellow-shafted** was in the s. *Peloncillo Mts.* 9–10 Mar (ph. CGL).

Many observers commented on the dearth of migrant **Empidonax** flycatchers; for example, at P. O. Canyon only 4 **Dusky Flycatchers** were counted this season, down from 35 there in 2011 (CDL). Always scarce on the e. plains, single **Gray Flycatchers** were at N.R.T. 18 Apr (JO), Ned Houk Park 19 Apr (JO), and B.D. 27 Apr and 4 May (NP). **Least Flycatchers** were at B.D. 11–20 May (MB, NP), including up to 4 on 13 May (MB, NP) and up to 3 on 18 May (NP, DK). Providing a *Bernalillo* first, a pair of **Eastern Phoebe**s nested at the Alameda bridge, where noted 20 Apr (ph. CW) and seen going and coming from the nest 5 May (ph. WH); a fledgling was seen 26–27 May (CR, WH). A male **Vermilion Flycatcher** was ne. to Clayton L. 24 Mar (DEW), and one was singing at N.R.T. 20 Apr (JP, JO). Extremely early, an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was at Tyrone 4 Mar (EL), and another was at Silver City 5 Mar (KB); one reached N.R.T. 1 Apr (ph. DW). Unusual for spring, a **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at R.S. 23 May (BO). Now well established e. to Las Animas Cr., *Sierra*, 10 **Brown-crested Flycatchers**—four pairs and 2 singles—were found 11 May, including one with nesting material (ph. DC). Encouraging were 4 **Thick-billed Kingbirds** in Guadalupe Canyon 12 May (NM-C, RAR). Noteworthy for both date and location, an **Eastern Kingbird** was near Tajique, *Torrance* 22 Apr (ph. NH).

White-eyed Vireos once again were much in evidence, with singles at Albuquerque's Tingley bosque 19 Apr (HT), Bosque 22 Apr (ph. SM), and Culp Canyon, s. *Sacramento Mts.* 16 May (ph. DG); at least 3 were at N.R.T., one each 19–21 Apr (JP, ph. JO, CR), 29 Apr–8 May (JP, ph. JO, m.ob.), and 25–26 May (JO, JP). A **Bell's Vireo** was singing on Otero Mesa se. of Orogrande 16 May (RAM); another was at Brantley L. 2 May (RN). A **Gray Vireo** was singing on Mesa Prieta near Cabezon Peak 25 May (WH); a pair was at Albuquerque's Man-

zono Open Space 27 May (J. Joseph). Yellow-throated Vireos were at six sites from the R.G.V. eastward 21 Apr–20 May, with singles at Albuquerque (J. Egbert), E.B.L. Dam (ph. DC), near Cimarron (J. Drummond), Waldrop Rest Area (BO), and R.S. (RN); at N.R.T., singles were present 20 Apr and 3–4 May, with 2 there 13–14 May (m.ob.). A male Blue-headed Vireo was singing at Milnesand 10–11 May (JP, ph. NP, v.r. MB), and another was singing at R.S. 23 May (BO). Hutton's Vireo is a recent arrival to the Guadalupe Mts.; this season, 2 were singing at Soldier Spring 12 May (SW). An impressive Red-eyed Vireo season found 2 w. to Deming 26 May (LM), one in Water Canyon, Magdalena Mts. 11–13 May (TA, M. O'Donnell), and one at Galisteo 19 May (RC, ph. JB); in the e., one to 2 were at Ned Houk Park, N.R.T., and B.D. 10–24 May (m.ob.).

A Steller's Jay strayed to the lowlands at San Marcos, Santa Fe 15–16 Apr (R. Olcott). A Blue Jay was w. to Sandia Park 1 Apr (CB). North of historical range in the R.G.V., a Chihuahuan Raven pair was building a nest at Albuquerque's Paradise Hills 15 Apr (WH), the 2nd consecutive year the species has nested there. Three Purple Martins were at bird houses at Eunice 7 May (P. McCasland), where nesting has only recently been confirmed; also in the e., singles were at B.D. 14 May (CW) and Milnesand 5 May (MB). Cave Swallows have spread far beyond caves in Eddy; this season, at least two nests were active in the desert e. of Carlsbad at the Waste Isolation Pilot Project 30 Apr (ph. RN); in Doña Ana, a new colony was in a culvert in n. Las Cruces near the Shalem Colony bridge (R. Castetter). At least one Mexican Chickadee was in the Animas Mts. 12 May (*vide* AC). Noteworthy for the San Mateo Mts., a Bridled Titmouse pair was nesting at Springtime Campground 24 Apr (SM, ph. M. Bradford).

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS

A newly constructed Cactus Wren nest near



Providing the first New Mexico record in six years, this male Bay-breasted Warbler was at the northern Roosevelt County migrant trap 9 May 2012. Photograph by Matthew J. Baumann.

Cabezon Peak, Sandoval 24 Mar (ph. WH) was at the nw. fringe of the expanding range. At least 2 Carolina Wrens, both heard singing, were at Bosque from 23 Mar (GF) into Jun (m.ob., ph. JO), in the same area where found in 2011. The well-studied Pacific Wren at Albuquerque's Tingley bosque continued until 22 Apr (JP, DH, ph. CW, MB). A northbound Winter Wren was at Cedar Crest 29 Mar (D. Ligon). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Redrock 23 Mar (JP) may have wintered locally. Since the freeze of Feb 2011, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher has been decidedly scarce in s. New Mexico; countywide counts in Doña Ana (MS) and Hidalgo (AC) 12 May recorded none. A Western Bluebird pair was feeding nestlings in the Tingley bosque 15 May (DH), where previously only Eastern Bluebirds had been found breeding. A record season for Gray-cheeked Thrush found one at B.D. 13 May (ph. MB, ph. NP, ph. JO, JP, JB) and another there 17 May (WWe), and singles at Ned Houk Park 14 May (ph. CW) and Fort Sumner 20 May (ph. NP, MB). Swainson's Thrush was numerous and widespread on the e. plains, including up to 28 at B.D. 13 May (NP, MB); first to arrive were singles at Ned Houk Park (ph. NH) and N.R.T. (JP) and up to 3 at B.D. (NP, MB) 29 Apr. A Wood Thrush was at N.R.T. 10–14 May (JP, m.ob., ph. JO, ph. CW, ph. NH), where recently essentially annual in late spring. Noteworthy for Otero Mesa were 2 Gray Catbirds ne. of Orogrande 16 May (RAM). Far n. in the Pecos Valley, a singing Crissal Thrasher was at Sumner Dam 3 & 6 Mar (JP, JO).

Among the numerous rare warblers were 3 Worm-eating Warblers, one each near Tinaja, Colfax 20 Apr (ph. W. & I. Prather), N.R.T. 20 Apr (JP, ph. JO), and R.S. 5 May (RN, SW). Two Golden-winged Warblers were documented at B.D., a female 11 May (ph. MB, ph. NP) and a male 14 May (ph. JB, ph. CW); a Blue-winged Warbler was at R.S. 4–5 May (RN, SW). Three Prothonotary Warblers were found, singles at R.S. 6 Apr (ER, ph. RN), Tatum 22 Apr (MH), and B.L.N.W.R. 2 May (JS, ph. L. Ulibarri). A nicely documented Tennessee Warbler at N.R.T. 5 May (JP, JO) furnished the only report. Two Lucy's Warblers were n. in the R.G.V. to the bridge at Bosque, Valencia 28 Apr (DH), and another was near Belen 6 May (WH). A Mourning Warbler made a brief visit to N.R.T. May 12 (JP, ph. JO, ph. NH, ph. S. Collins). A strong Kentucky



One of a remarkable six White-eyed Vireos found in New Mexico in spring 2012, this one singing in Culp Canyon of the Sacramento Mountains 16 May provided an Otero County first. Photograph by David J. Griffin.



The four Gray-cheeked Thrushes found in New Mexico in spring 2012 nearly doubled the number of records overall; this one was at Fort Sumner, De Baca County 20 May 2012. Photograph by Nicholas D. Pederson.

Warbler season found singles w. to the R.G.V. at Percha 24 Apr (CR) and Mesilla Park 25 Apr (ph. NS), the latter a window-killed specimen; in the e., singles were at Ned Houk Park 6 May (JP), N.R.T. 10–12 May (ph. JO, ph. CW, ph. NH, JP), and B.D. 20 May (ph. MB, ph. DK). At least 3 Hooded Warblers were at N.R.T. during the period 20 Apr–24 May (m.ob., ph.); elsewhere, singles were at Fort Sumner 19 Apr (C. Adams), B.D. 29 Apr (MB, NP, ph. CW) and again 6 May (MB), Milnesand 21 Apr (CR), and Bosque 6 May (R. Bello). A Northern Parula was w. to the Ice Caves Trading Post, Cibola 31 May–3 Jun (K. Score). A male Bay-breasted Warbler at N.R.T. 9 May (JP, m.ob., ph.) furnished the first New Mexico record since 2006. A male Blackburnian Warbler provided a local first at Bosque 13 May (P. Benham). Three Chestnut-sided Warblers were found in the e., singles at Brantley L. 7 May (JP), B.D. 13 May (NP, ph. MB), and N.R.T. 29 May (TA). A Palm Warbler was w. to Albuquerque 29–30 Apr (HT, DH); in the e., singles were at B.D. 29 Apr (MB, NP, ph. CW) and N.R.T. 17 May (WWe). Continuing from Feb, a Pine Warbler was at R.S. 9–10 Mar (JP). A Yellow-throated

Warbler w. to White Rock 17 May (ph. C. Clinton) provided a *Los Alamos* first; another was at N.R.T. 22 Apr (DH). Grace's Warblers in unlikely habitat were singles singing at Bosque 8 & 15 Apr (WH, NP), at R.S. 6 May (R. Hurd), and in desert 30 km e. of Carlsbad 14 May (SW). Scarce on the e. plains, single Black-throated Gray Warblers were at N.R.T. 14 (JP, JO) & 20-21 Apr (JP, JO), B.D. 29 Apr (NP), and Hobbs 20 Apr (C. Levine). Hermit Warbler is unexpected in the e., but this season found one at Oasis S.P. 23 Apr (ph. DW) and 2 at Milnesand 4 May (JP, JO), where one lingered until 6 May (MB, ph. NH). Two Black-



Unexpected east to the Great Plains, this Hermit Warbler at Milnesand, Roosevelt County 4-6 (here 6) May 2012 was one of a remarkable three documented out on the prairie this season in New Mexico. Photograph by Nicholas D. Pederson.

throated Green Warblers were at Milnesand 4-5 May (JP, ph. JO, m.ob., ph. NP), with one remaining through 6 May (ph. NP), and one was at R.S. 21 Apr (ph. RN). A male Canada Warbler at N.R.T. 10 May (JP, JO) provided New Mexico's 10th verified record. A singing Red-faced Warbler strayed far n. to Galisteo 26 May (G. Szpatura, ph. JB, ph. BF, CR); unusual along the Rio Grande was another at Percha 24 Apr (CR). Noteworthy n. to the Magdalena Mts., a pair of Painted Redstarts was in Sixmile Canyon 29 Apr (SM), and one was in upper Sawmill Canyon 7 May (A. Johnson).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Maintaining a Guadalupe Canyon presence, a Rufous-winged Sparrow was singing 12 May (NM-C, RAR). An American Tree Sparrow was s. to Embudito Canyon, Sandia Mts. 11 Mar (J. Franks). Brewer's Sparrows occupied two breeding territories in Sandoval near Cabezon Peak 25 May (WH), at the se. fringe of the breeding range. Up to 3 Field Sparrows were w. to Sumner Dam 3 Mar (JP), and one was at

Clayton L. 25 Mar (ph. DEW); late Fields included singles in s. Curry 29 Apr (DW), at B.D. 28 Apr (NP, JP, ph. CW), and near Causey 21 Apr (CR), plus 2 at R.S. 21 Apr (RN). A Swamp Sparrow was a surprise at N.R.T. 10-13 May (JP, JO). Continuing from winter, single Harris's Sparrows were last seen at Pojoaque 24 Apr (H. Morgan), Embudo Canyon 17 Apr (G. Owings), Luis Lopez 21 Apr (JO), and Percha 29 Apr (MH). Very early was a dark-lored White-crowned Sparrow at N.R.T. 11 Apr (ph. JO). Continuing from winter, a Golden-crowned Sparrow at Albuquerque was last seen 30 Apr (ph. WH); one at E.B.L. was last seen 27 Mar (ph. DC). A Yellow-eyed Junco nest with eggs was found in the Animas Mts. 12 May (*fide* AC).

Hepatic Tanagers arrived on the e. plains 27 Apr, with one each at N.R.T. (JP, JO) and B.D. (NP). Northern Cardinals continued in w. Sierra, with two territories at Hillsboro 6 Mar-31 May (ph. DC) and a pair along Tierra Blanca Cr. 17 Mar-31 May (ph. DC). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks flooded the state from the R.G.V. eastward, with often multiple reports from 15



Providing a Santa Fe County surprise, this Red-faced Warbler at Galisteo 26 May 2012 was among the most northerly yet found in New Mexico. Photograph by Bernard R. Foy.

counties during May; remarkably early was a male at Mesilla Dam 21 Mar (A. Trompler); other early males were singles at Los Alamos 10-13 Apr (B. Larsen) and Tatum 20 Apr (JP). Remarkably early was a Blue Grosbeak at Tyrone 25 Mar (EL). Yet another early arrival was an Indigo Bunting at N.R.T. 14 Apr (JP, JO). Varied Buntings were conspicuous in Eddy, with reports from Walnut, Rattlesnake, and Slaughter Canyons in May (m.ob.), but none were detected in Guadalupe Canyon 12 May (*fide* AC).

Six male Bobolinks were a surprise at Los Alamos 12 May (ph. S. Fetting); a female on Otero Mesa 22 May (RAM) provided the only additional report. At least 2 Eastern Meadowlarks were in nw. Sandoval near Cabezon Peak 25 May (WH). Possibly continuing from winter, a Rusty Blackbird was near Clayton 4 Mar (DLW). Far w. as well as unseasonable was a Common Grackle at Buckhorn 21 Mar (D. Tallman). Bronzed Cowbirds were found across the s. and n. to Grant, Socorro, and Curry; in the e., females at Ned Houk Park 25 May (ph. JO) and R.S. 24 May (BO) were of the darker *aeoneus* subspecies. An ad. male Orchard Oriole was singing w. to Rodeo 21 May (ph. D. Stejskal); another was singing at Fort Sumner 20 May (JP). Early Hooded Orioles were single males at Las Cruces 25 Mar (DG) and E.B.L. 5 Apr (ph. DC), but overall the species was judged unusually scarce across its range in s. New Mexico. The ad. male Bullock's Oriole that wintered at a sugar water feeder at Portales was last seen 31 Mar (ph. D. Batten). An ad. male Baltimore



An unusual sight for New Mexico, this "flock" of six male Bobolinks was at Los Alamos, Los Alamos County 12 May 2012. Photograph by Stephen M. Fetting.

Oriole was at Galisteo 22 May (ph. JB, ph. BF). A male Scott's Oriole reached Redrock 23 Mar (JP); the first at P. O. Canyon arrived 30 Mar (CDL). Five northbound Cassin's Finches were at P. O. Canyon 8 Apr (CDL); elsewhere, the species was almost entirely restricted to the n. mountains. A Lesser Goldfinch pair was feeding fledglings at Albuquerque 17 Apr (SOW), implying nest initiation in Mar.

Initialed observers: Thomas Archdeacon, Jonathan Batkin, Matthew Baumann, Karen Beck-

enbach, Dan Belcher, Celestyn Brozek, Roger Clark, David Cleary, Alan Craig, Vicki Dern, Wyatt Egelhoff, Bernard Foy, Gary Froehlich, Coleman Goin, David Griffin, David Hawksworth, Chuck Hayes, Nancy Hetrick, Michael Hilchey, William Howe, Tom Kennedy, David Krueper, Eugene Lewis, Carroll D. Littlefield, Carl G. Lundblad, Ed MacKerrow, Larry Malone, Sonja Mendoza, Ramond A. Meyer, Narca Moore-Craig, Robert Munro, Robert Nieman, Jerry Oldenettel, Bruce Ostry, John Parmeter, Nicholas Pederson, Eric Pierce, Rose

Ann Rowlett, Christopher Rustay, Jeffrey Sanchez, Catherine Sandell, Marcy Scott, Donna Simonetti, Nancy Stotz, Hank Taliaferro, Don L. Weidemann, Doug E. Weidemann, Steve West, William West, Debra Whitecotton, Sartor O. Williams, William Wittman, Cole Wolf, James Zabriskie, Barry Zimmer. ☉

Sartor O. Williams III,
Division of Birds, Museum of Southwestern Biology,
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque,
New Mexico 87131-0001, (sunbittern@earthlink.net)

Arizona



Mark M. Stevenson (Non-passerines)
Gary H. Rosenberg (Passerines)

Migration seemed delayed by a week, and migrant densities seemed average to below average in most areas, despite generally dry conditions that ordinarily might concentrate birds. Perhaps the warm, settled weather allowed for easy passage of migrants. Rarity highlights included a Red-billed Tropicbird, the state's first photographically documented Swallow-tailed Kite, a Hudsonian Godwit, a Streak-backed Oriole, and multiple Plain-capped Starthroats.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (Arizona Bird Committee), B.T.A. (Boyce Thompson Arboretum S.P.), B.W.D. (Bill Williams Delta, L. Havasu), G.R.P. (Glendale recharge ponds), L.C.R.V. (lower Colorado R. valley), M.C.W. (Morgan City Wash, Maricopa), Sweetwater (Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson).

WATERFOWL THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck n. to Willow L. 28-31 May (B. & P. Wilmore; ph. SBU) was one of very few recent extralimital records. A Canada Goose was late at Lake Havasu City 8 Apr (TJ). A Trumpeter Swan along the Colorado R. in La Paz 14-19 Apr (A. DeMartini) bore a neck band connecting it to a captive breeding program in Montana. After more than a month of no reports, a Eurasian Wigeon was in Flagstaff 26 Mar (E. Harding). A Mexican Duck was out of range in the Mohave Valley 19 Mar (DVP, LHa); small numbers continue to be found in the upper L.C.R.V. Late single Ring-necked Ducks were in the L.C.R.V. at Lake Havasu City through 9 May (TS et al.) and at Havasu N.W.R. 15 May (TS et al.). A Greater Scaup was late on n. L. Havasu 8 May (LHa). The 2 Surf Scoters at B.W.D. remained through 14 Mar and 26 Apr, respectively (m.ob.). The White-winged Scoter at B.W.D. remained through 30 Mar (m.ob.). It was a good spring for Red-breasted Mergansers away from the L.C.R.V. with 8 at G.R.P. 1 Apr (MH), 2 at Upper L. Mary 19 Apr (JWI), one at Palo Verde 20 Apr (TM), and 3 at Willow L. 30 Apr (ph. SBU). The 2 Red-throated Loons at B.W.D. were last reported 26 Mar (m.ob.) and apparently moved to n. L. Havasu 30 Mar (†DVP, LHa, TS). The peak spring count of Common Loons on n. L. Havasu was 44 found 15 Apr (DVP, TS). A Common Loon at Gila Bend 12 May (MH) was the only one reported away from the L.C.R.V. Least Grebes continued at their only outpost, Peña Blanca L., all season; the peak count was 10, and nesting was again observed (m.ob.). Away from the L.C.R.V., 7 Horned Grebes were on Canyon L. 4 Mar (JKO, ph. TD), and one was at Sahuarita L. 6-15 Mar (ph. MMS). Though annual in the state in recent years, a Red-necked Grebe was a great find at Tempe Town L. 1-26 Mar (R. Bimrose; ph.

BGr). Clark's Grebe is a scarce migrant away from nesting areas in the state; singles were at Sedona S.T.P. 16 Apr (R. Armstrong) and Willow L. 30 May (SBU).

A juv. Red-billed Tropicbird crash-landed in the dark in a Tucson yard 25 Apr, was brought to a Tucson rehabilitator, and was eventually released at San Diego by Sea World (L. Bates; ph. MMS), providing a 6th Arizona record. The spread of Neotropical Cormorants continued. A single bird continued at B.W.D. all season (m.ob.); 2 were at Willow L. through 26 Apr (m.ob.), up to 15 were at Fain Park, Prescott Valley 4-6 Mar (ph. J. Morris), up to 37 were at the roost at Columbus Park, Tucson (AC, MMS), where a pair nested again 4 Apr+ (AC, MMS), one was at Benson 20 Apr (MP, MMS, DS), one was at Alamo L. 21-27 Apr (H. Detwiler, LHa, DVP), and 3 were at Dudleyville 10-29 May (J. Alsadi). Spring is not the typical time for Brown Pelicans in Arizona, so singles at Green Valley 14 Apr (G. Hazard) and Gilbert 24 Apr (JKO) were of note. At Tempe Town L., one was present through 29 Mar, and it or another was present 12-14 May (M. Weber). Notable American Bitterns were at Pasture Canyon 3 May (ph. JWI) and Marana 5 May (M. Brooks). An ad. Little Blue Heron, casual in the L.C.R.V., was at Havasu N.W.R. 5 May (DD, ph. J. Parrot). A Tricolored Heron was at Tres Rios, Phoenix, where casual, 28 Apr (TM). Glossy Ibis remains a less-than-annual visitor to the state; a report of 3 at Buckeye 6 Apr (ph. D. Sherony) will be reviewed by the A.B.C. A Black Vulture wandered n. to Saint David 26 May (S. Goldwasser, ph. CDB). Providing the first photographic evidence of the species in Arizona, a Swallow-tailed Kite was observed near Hwy. 87 on Fort McDowell Tribal Land by Bald Eagle nest watchers 13 May (ph. R. Seeley); there is one prior sight record, from

Dudleyville in Aug 1980. A Common Black-Hawk, casual in the L.C.R.V., was in riparian habitat at Bill Williams River N.W.R. 20 May (ph. J. West). A Harris's Hawk wandered to Havasu N.W.R. 4 Mar (TS, ph. LHa), another was at Lake Havasu City 11 May (CMc), and a pair successfully nested at Quartzite (L. Burton, m.ob.); though a reestablishment program was undertaken in the s. L.C.R.V. during 1978-1980s, numbers quickly dwindled afterward. The northwestward spread of Gray Hawk continued, with one nw to Bridle Cr. near Baghdad 16 Mar (M. Nicosia), another in Goodyear 22 Mar (MH), one near Humboldt 27 Apr (CST), and up to 6 in the Wickenburg area 12 May (C. Kondrat-Smith, TC). Short-tailed Hawk remains a sparsely distributed summer resident

in the Sky Island ranges of se. Arizona. Singles were reported from Madera Canyon 10 Apr (LH), Mt. Lemmon 5 May+ (ph. L. Pittman), and Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mts. 12 May (C. Williams, †M. Williams). A Zone-tailed Hawk at Yuma 13 Mar (N. Meister, *fide* H. Detwiler) was an early migrant there.

Black-bellied Plovers were more numerous than usual this spring. Reports included one at G.R.P. 13 Apr (KR), 3 at Sedona S.T.P. 14 Apr (J. Hildebrand), one at Amado S.T.P. 10-21 Apr (S. Carnahan), one at Gilbert 24 Apr (JKo), and one at Willcox 5 May (J. Woodley). The only Snowy Plovers reported were singles at G.R.P. 14 Apr-20 May (D. Powell et al.), Cibola N.W.R. 26 Apr (CMc), and Willcox 22 May (GHR). Whimbrel is a scarce migrant away

from the L.C.R.V. and w. *Maricopa*, so singles at the Santa Cruz Flats 3 May (ph. G. Graves), at dry Marshall L. 12 May (D. Lamkin, P. Kegley), and at Portal 15 May (JY) were of note. Most of the state's records of **Hudsonian Godwit** have come from Willcox in late May, based on that, a concerted search effort found one there 22-27 May (ph. MMS, MP, ph. LH). The only Sanderling reported was at Lake Havasu City 12 Apr (TJ). Casual in spring, single Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Green Valley S.T.P. 22-24 Apr (LH) and Willcox 30 Apr (J. Hirth). Nearly annual only in recent years, 2 White-rumped Sandpipers were at Willcox 14-22 May (ph. RT). A Stilt Sandpiper was extremely early at Gilbert Water Ranch 20-22 Mar (ph. TM, ph. B. Howe). Short-billed Dowitcher is a scarce spring migrant; singles were reported at Tres Rios 24 Apr (TD), Willcox 26 Apr (AC, P. Kline), and Willcox 19-22 May (ph. DB). There was a spate of early Red-necked Phalaropes, with singles at Mammoth S.T.P. 18 Mar (D. Jenness), Gila Bend 14 Apr (D. Powell et al.), G.R.P. 14-15 Apr (D. Powell et al.), and Sweetwater 14-15 Apr (P. Baum et al.). A Red Phalarope at Sweetwater 11-13 Apr (ph. AC) was a rare inland migrant.

Previously considered rare to casual in spring in the L.C.R.V., Bonaparte's Gulls were seen in flocks at L. Havasu this spring, peaking at 17 at n. L. Havasu 21 Apr (DVP, TS). No more than casual in the state, a Laughing Gull was very early at Willcox 15-16 Mar (ph. DB), and another was there 15 May (J. Higgins et al.; ph. C. van Cleve). A Heermann's Gull was a casual visitor to Tucson 28 Mar (S. Goldwasser). An ad. California Gull was early at Tucson 4-8 Mar (MMS), while the following were late in the L.C.R.V.: 2 at Lake Havasu City 21 Apr (DVP, TS) and 6 at n. L. Havasu 8 May (LHa). Nearby, 10 were at Alamo L. 29 Apr (DVP, LHa). The only reports of Least Tern were one at G.R.P. 29 Apr-1 May (ph. N. Williams) and 2 there 19-25 May (MH). Caspian Terns were more numerous and widespread than usual this spring; reports away from the L.C.R.V. comprised one at Patagonia L. 27 Apr (ML et al.), 6 at G.R.P. 28 Apr (TM), one at Tres Rios 28 Apr (P. Deviche) and 3 May (G. Graves), 25 at Alamo L. 29 Apr (LHa, DVP), 4 at Willow L. 29 Apr (M. Nicosia, SBu), 11 at G.R.P. 30 Apr (S. Hosmer) and 2 there 3-6 May (MH), 2 at Willcox 19 May (DB), and 2 at Patagonia L. 30 May (ML). Single Black Terns were at Palo Verde 11 May (MH) and at Green Valley 24-26 May (LH). A Common Tern was a good find at Tucson 28 May (T. Ford-Hutchinson).

A rare visitor to the desert lowlands, a Band-tailed Pigeon was at B.T.A. 21 Apr (D. Pearson et al.). Two singing Common Ground-Doves were n. to Alamo L. 29 Apr (LHa, DVP). A



A Red-billed Tropicbird was picked up alive in northwestern Tucson, Arizona 25 (here 28) April 2012 and brought to a wildlife rehabilitation center in Tucson, where this photograph was taken. This represents the sixth Arizona record of this pelagic species. Photograph by Mark Stevenson.



Two White-rumped Sandpipers were found at Willcox 14-22 (here 14) May 2012; this species is still considered casual in late spring in southeastern Arizona. Photograph by Rick Taylor.

Mexican Whip-poor-will was heard in Madera Canyon on the early date of 27 Mar (L. Calvo). The spread of Broad-billed Hummingbirds continued, with individuals straying to M.C.W. 31 Mar and 28 Apr (TC), Bill Williams River N.W.R. 11-12 Apr (LHa, DVP; ph. TS), and near Wickenburg 12 May (C. Kondrat-Smith). A year after the Monument Fire burned through the Huachuca Mts., fewer White-eared Hummingbirds than usual were reported this spring. A female was seen gathering nesting material at Beatty's in Miller Canyon 1 May (L. Norris), and an imm. male was there 28 May+ (T. Beatty, Jr.; ph. C. Melton). Elsewhere, a female was seen sporadically at Madera Canyon feeders 7 May+ (L. Calvo; ph. G. Starrett). Plain-capped Starthroat has been annual or nearly so in recent years, but this spring's multiple reports on early dates were remarkable. Singles were present in lower Ash Canyon, Hereford 13 May+ (ph. K. LeMay, R. Behrstock), at Montosa Canyon, Santa Rita Mts. 26 May+ (ph. DS; GHR), and in lower Ramsey Canyon 29 May (†J. & M. Hirth). Starthroats seldom arrive before mid-Jun in Arizona. Lucifer Hummingbird is another species of limited distribution that lost habitat in the Monument Fire. On the e. side of the Huachuca Mts., just 4 Lucifers were reported 31 Mar–28 Apr (M. J. Ballator, T. Battiste, R. Behrstock). Elsewhere, up to 4 were at a feeder in the Mule Mts. 7-8 Apr (K. Lamberton), and up to 3 were at feeders around Portal 9 Apr–29 May (RAR, REW, D. Johnson, M. Decker). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Desert View, Grand Canyon N.P. 13 Mar was two weeks early there, with 2 more arriving early 30 Mar (B. Gatlin). An ad. female Allen's Hummingbird banded at the San Pedro House 21 Apr (S. Williamson) was an extremely rare spring migrant. The annual Elegant Trogon census in fire-scarred Cave Creek Canyon detected only 8 birds 26 May (RT et al.) but was hampered by winds. Conversely, 28 trogons were found in the Huachuca Mts. 27 May (RT et al.). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Black Jack Campground 12 Mar (P. Kline) was potentially a first for *Greenlee*. A Red-naped Sapsucker was record late in the L.C.R.V. at Bill Williams River N.W.R. 2 May (DVP). A Red-breasted Sapsucker was s. of Prescott 5-8 Mar (CST; ph. SBu, B. Patrick).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH LONGSPURS

A Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet was found again in the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area near Clifton 12 Mar (ph. PK), providing only a 2nd *Greenlee* record. A Cordilleran Flycatcher at Madera Canyon 22 Apr (MP, MMS) was casual so early. Up to 4 Buff-breasted Flycatchers were present near Rose Canyon L., Santa Catalina Mts., first detected 30 Mar (R.

Messenger, m.ob.) and seen nest-building 27 Apr (CLu). Buff-breasteds were also found elsewhere in the Catalinas, in the Wilderness of Rocks 5 May (S. Birky) and in Middle Bear Canyon 17 May (LH); this species has been expanding into the Santa Catalina Mts. and Chiricahua Mts. for a number of years. An Eastern Phoebe was found at Patagonia L. 27 May (KR, CR); this species is casual as a spring migrant, and this one may have wintered locally. A Vermilion Flycatcher was at Flagstaff 22 Apr (ph. P. Koch); this species is casual in much of n. Arizona. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher at Patagonia L. 14 Mar (S. Healy) was on the early side. The **Nutting's Flycatcher** that was found along the Bill Williams R. in Dec was last reported 25 Mar (DVP et al.); of the four Arizona records, this was the 2nd known to have wintered. A Brown-crested Flycatcher seen at Catalina S.P. 24 Mar (PK) was about a week early for arrival in se. Arizona. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was also early in Huachuca Canyon 9 May (GHR). The Tropical Kingbird that wintered at Tres Rios in Phoenix was last reported 7 Apr (m.ob.). Elsewhere, Tropical Kingbirds continue to expand through the Santa Cruz River Valley, as well as to the nw., with reports of 2 again at Hassayampa River Preserve 12 May (C. Kondrat-Smith, TC), 2 at 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve near Parker 12 May (CMC), and one at Bill Williams River N.W.R. 30 May (LHa). A Thick-billed Kingbird was found in E. Whitetail Canyon in the Chiricahua Mts. 12-14 May (RT), where the species is casual. Rare in spring in s. Arizona, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at Green Valley S.T.P. 28 Apr (ph. W. Burk), Bill Williams R. 20 May (J. West), and Lake Havasu City 20-21 May (ph. CMC).

Gray Vireo has proven to be a rare but regular migrant in lowland situations across s. Arizona in Apr, but one at Mosquito Flats along the Bill Williams R. 20 Apr (DVP) was exceptional. The only Yellow-throated Vireo of the season was one at Willow Creek Preserve near Kingman 27 Apr (LHa, ph. DVP); this species has become a rare but regular visitor to Arizona in recent years. A possible Blue-headed Vireo was photographed along M.C.W. 28 Apr (ph. TC); the A.B.C. is reviewing this report, but even with photographs, the difficulty of separating Blue-headed from brightly plumaged Cassin's Vireos is a huge (and potentially unsolvable) problem. A Hutton's Vireo was at Hualapai Mountain Park, where casual, 16 Mar (MN), and 2 were there 16-17 Apr (MN). Another was along the Bill Williams R. 30 Apr, and 2 were also along the river 1 May (LHa); this species is casual



This Plain-capped Starthroat was found in Montosa Canyon 26 May 2012 (here) and was present into June. This species is a casual visitor to canyons, mostly at lower elevations, in southeastern Arizona. Photograph by David Stejskal.

along the Lower Colorado R. in spring. Small numbers of Western Scrub-Jays lingered along the Bill Williams R. into early Apr (DVP).

A Purple Martin reported from Walnut Cr., Yavapai 31 Mar (W. Anderson) was very early for a spring arrival. Although Tree Swallow is a common migrant in Arizona, exceptional counts this spring included 100,000 at both L. Havasu 13 Apr (DVP) and at Martinez L. 15 Apr (TJ). A single Tree Swallow at Willcox 26 May (B. Scott, J. Hand) was considered casual at this late date. A Cave Swallow report from Willcox 26 May (†B. Scott) will be evaluated by the A.B.C.; this species is casual at best anywhere in Arizona, with most reports from fall and winter. Black-capped Gnatcatchers continued at several known locations for this species in se. Arizona; 2 reported from Baboquivari Canyon on the w. side of the Baboquivari Mts. 9 Apr (M. Brooks) provided a new location for this species, although it had been found previously in Brown Canyon on the e. side of the range. The Rufous-backed Robin that was discovered in Florida Canyon in Dec was last reported 11 Mar, while the individual found in Patagonia in Jan lingered as late as 27 Apr. Rufous-backed Robin is considered rarer in spring, so one in Brown Canyon, Huachuca Mts. 6 May (ph. N. Kohler) and another along South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon 13 May (JY) were noteworthy. A pair of American Robins nested at Rotary Park, Lake Havasu City 9-30 May (CMC, DVP et al.); this species is a rare but regular breeder in parks in towns up and down the river. Two different Varied Thrushes were reported, with one near Tubac 10 Mar (S. Stevens) and another in Sycamore Canyon, Santa Cruz 14 Mar (S. Blackman); this species is rare but regular as a visitor, mainly during the winter and spring.

It is not unusual for Brown Thrashers found



A singing Prairie Warbler was discovered at Sabino Canyon 29-31 (here 30) May 2012, providing about a fifteenth Arizona record. Photograph by Mark Sharon.

during winter to linger into spring; the one that wintered at Gilbert Water Ranch was last reported 22 Apr (ph. R. Ditch). New individuals found during the spring included one in Bisbee 4-24 Mar (SW), one along M.C.W. 7 Apr (TC, T. Lewis), one at Flagstaff 18 Apr (ph. D. Poley-quiva), and at least 2 together at Portal 19-26 Apr (ph. B. Inman). Two Le Conte's Thrashers were found along the entrance road to Temple Bar, Mohave 8 May (CL), where this species is considered rare. An Olive Warbler at B.T.A. 21 Apr (R. Ditch, M. Ochs, D. Pearson) was at an unusually low elevation for this species in Arizona. Up to 4 Lapland Longspurs were along Buffalo Spring Rd. e. of Flagstaff 1-24 Mar (ph. JWL); this species is still considered casual in the state, particularly in the north.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Single Ovenbirds, rare but regular in the state, were at Madera Canyon 15-16 May (D. Muschalek; ph. LH) and at California Gulch (K. Eckert et al.). Less common in Arizona were single Worm-eating Warblers at Marana 22 May (E. Olmstead, P. Green et al.; v.r. C. Miracle) and at Cameron Seep 24 May (ph. JWL). No fewer than 26 Northern Waterthrushes were found statewide, about the recent norm for spring. Similarly, 7 Black-and-white Warblers were found this season. Prothonotary Warblers are always a pleasure to find in Arizona; this spring, 2 were discovered, one along the San Pedro R. near the Hereford Bridge 15 May (ph. T. Allshouse), the other at Sweetwater 22 May (M. Brooks, S. Pike; ph. T. Lawler). A Kentucky Warbler was in a Hidden Valley, Pinal yard 11 May (ph. N. Lange). Single

Hooded Warblers were at Ramsey Canyon 16 Apr (ph. J. Scheib), at Madera Canyon 18 May (ph. T. Lawler), again at Ramsey Canyon 24-25 May (M. Webster; ph. T. Ford-Hutchinson), and along South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon 26 May (RAR); this species is a very rare but annual visitor during late spring in se. Arizona. Also rare but regular, 3 American Redstarts and 13 Northern Parulas were found statewide. A Blackpoll Warbler was at the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum 23 May (ph. B. Demuth, N. Golden, L. Weir); Blackpolls are very casual in the state in spring. Also casual during spring, a Palm Warbler was reported from near Bartlett L. 8 May (†TC). A Myrtle Warbler at Lake Havasu City 21-25 Apr (DVP) was considered very late for the L.C.R.V. One of the rarer warblers to be found this spring was a singing male Prairie Warbler at Sabino Canyon 29-31 May (WR; ph. DS, MSh); this represents only a 15th Arizona record, most of which are from fall and winter. Very late for a migrant and rare in the lowlands, a Grace's Warbler was at San Bernardino N.W.R. 31 May (REW). A Black-throated Green Warbler at Tumacacori 24 May (ph. ML) was casual, particularly for spring. The pair of Rufous-capped Warblers that was present during the winter in Florida Canyon was reported through 19 Apr (m.ob.) and again 18 May (K. Eckert) but was missed subsequently. Painted Redstarts were again reported in greater-than-usual numbers at lowland locations during late Mar and early Apr. Different Yellow-breasted Chats along the Bill Williams R. 9 & 10 Apr (DVP) were about a week early for the L.C.R.V.

After Botteri's Sparrows were found at a few locations during the winter, there were scattered reports from Mar and Apr, with reports increasing by the 3rd week of Apr; this species had traditionally been considered quite rare before early May. Single Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from Willcox 25 Apr (DS), Cameron Seep 9-16 May (J. Coons, J. Logan; ph. JWL), and Rio Rico 10 May (ph. ML); this species is a rare but regular spring migrant throughout Arizona. A Vesper Sparrow along the upper San Pedro R. 12 May (LHa, DVP, TS) was late for se. Arizona, as was a Savannah Sparrow at Willcox 22 May (LH, B. Walsh). A Grasshopper Sparrow was reported from Lake Havasu City 26 Apr (TJ), where it is considered casual in spring. Quite outstanding was a Yellow-eyed Junco at the San Pedro House 26 Apr (ph. C. Murphy); there are very few reports of this species away from breeding habitat in se. Arizona.

Singing male Northern Cardinals were along the Bill Williams R. at Cougar Pt. 21 Mar (LHa, B. Breen) and at Crossriver 3 Apr (DVP), and another was below Alamo Dam 2 May (LHa);

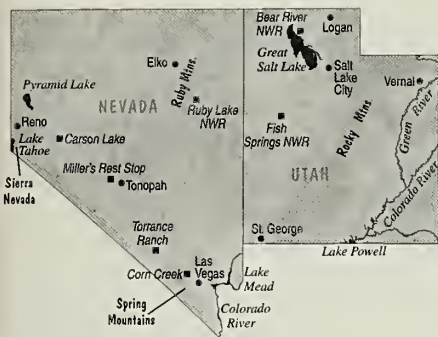
this species is extremely rare this far w. in Arizona. As in recent springs, no fewer than 25 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found statewide in May; this species has become remarkably regular as a spring visitor, particularly during mid- to late May. A Dickcissel along the Hassayampa R. near Wickenburg 13 May (ph. TD) provided a first spring *Maricopa* record. The Rusty Blackbird that was discovered in Flagstaff during Jan was last reported 20 Mar (ph. P. Koch); this species is casual in Arizona, particularly at such a high elevation. Common Grackle is also a casual visitor to Arizona, so one near Portal 24-27 Apr (ph. JY), one in a Flagstaff yard 10 May+ (CL; ph. JWL), and another at Cameron Trading Post 16 May (ph. JWL) were all very noteworthy; there are fewer than 20 previous records of this species from Arizona. A Streak-backed Oriole visited residential ne. Tucson 23 Mar (ph. R. Haupt); there are about 15 previous records from Arizona, most from winter. Baltimore Oriole is also a casual visitor to Arizona; this spring, 3 were documented in the state, at Phoenix 15 May (ph. J. Stemshorn, B. Keil), at Flagstaff 21-27 May (ph. P. Koch), and along the Paradise Rd. near Portal 21 May (ph. DS).

A Cassin's Finch at San Bernardino N.W.R. 16 Apr (REW) was at a very low elevation given that this was not a flight year for this species. Lawrence's Goldfinch reports from the L.C.R.V. included one found below Imperial Dam 11 Mar (DVP), one at Mosquito Flats, Bill Williams River N.W.R. 16 Mar (LHa), 2 near Kohen Ranch, Bill Williams River N.W.R. 30 Apr (LHa), and one along Fox Wash, Bill Williams River N.W.R. 1 May (DVP); this species has proven to be a casual breeder along the L.C.R.V. Three were at Hassayampa River Preserve 12-18 May (C. Kondrat-Smith, TC), where this species was thought to have bred in 2011.

Observers: Dave Beaudette, Chris D. Benesh, Steve Burk, Andrew Core (Tucson), Troy Corman, Tommy DeBardleben, Dee Dee DeLorenzo, Brendon Grice, Laurens Halsey, Lauren Harter (LHa), Tom Johnson, Philip Kline, Jim Kopitzke, Chuck LaRue, Michael Lester, Carl Lundblad (CLu), Tracy McCarthey, Chris McCreedy (CMc), Michael Nicosia, David vander Pluym, Molly Pollock, Cindy Radamaker, Kurt Radamaker, Gary H. Rosenberg, Rose Ann Rowlett, Will Russell, Tim Schreckengost, Dave Stejskal, Mark M. Stevenson, Rick Taylor, Carl S. Tomoff, Richard E. Webster, Jason Wilder, John Yerger. ☺

Mark M. Stevenson, 4201 East Monte Vista Drive, #J207, Tucson, Arizona 85712-5554 (dbrdr@att.net)

Gary H. Rosenberg, P.O. Box 91856, Tucson, Arizona 85752-1856 (ghrosenberg@comcast.net)



Rick Fridell

It was a drier spring than normal throughout most of the Great Basin. Low spring precipitation following limited winter snowpack resulted in dry conditions and provided conditions for a devastating summer fire season. Despite the difficult conditions, the Great Basin continued to provide many exceptional observations of rare and vagrant species. Nevada highlights included Mississippi Kite, Heermann's Gull, Blue-winged Warbler, and Bronzed Cowbird. Utah sightings were led by Common Ground-Dove and Bronzed Cowbird.

Abbreviations: Antelope I. (Antelope Island S.P. and Causeway, Davis, UT); Bear River (Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Box Elder, UT); Corn Cr. (Corn Creek Unit, Desert N.W.R., Clark, NV); Farmington Bay (Farmington Bay W.M.A., Davis, UT); Floyd Lamb (Floyd Lamb Park, Las Vegas, Clark, NV); H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Clark, NV); Lytle (Lytle Ranch Preserve, Washington, UT); Miller's R.A. (Miller's Rest Area, Esmeralda, NV); Pahrnagat (Pahrnagat N.W.R., Lincoln, NV); Red Hills (Red Hills G.C., St. George, Washington, UT).

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

Male Eurasian Wigeons were observed at Al-maga Barrens, Cache, UT 27 Mar (RO) and Lemmon Valley, Washoe, NV 1 May (GS). Four White-winged Scoters lingered at Antelope I. 9-25 Apr (KP et al.), and a Long-tailed Duck was photographed there 2-3 Mar (MMc, ph. NJ et al.). Neotropical Cormorants continued to be seen along the Wasatch Front, UT, with sightings of one at Farmington, Davis 20 Mar-15 May (BO et al.), one at Lee Kay Ponds, Salt Lake 25 Mar-29 Apr (MJ et al.), 4 at Mill Race Pond, Salt Lake 4 Apr-20 May (ph. RY et al.), one at Antelope I. 9 Apr (KP), and one at Kennecott Park, Salt Lake 2-20 May (RW, RY). The recent trend of increasing Utah Glossy Ibis sightings also continued, with singles observed with White-faced Ibis flocks at Antelope I. 26 Apr (KP), Bear River 28 Apr (ph. JBi), and Palmyra,

Utah 4 May (ph., †EH).

A **Mississippi Kite** was photographed at Las Vegas Wash, Clark, NV 16 May (DVD, TR). Broad-winged Hawks were observed at atypical locations: at Pineview Res., Weber, UT 29 Apr (AK) and along Sage Hen Rd., Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 26 May (ph. GS). The family group of Harris's Hawks at Boulder City, Clark, NV continued through the season (AA, MM et al.). Three Whimbrels were observed at Carson L., Churchill, NV 9-20 Apr (RSt et al.), and a flock of 13 was found near Bear River 2-5 May (KP, DW et al.). An amazing 7 Ruddy Turnstones were counted at Antelope I. 13-15 May (TP, ph. NJ et al.), and an equally impressive flock of 26 Red Knots was noted there 25 Apr-13 May (KP, S&CS, ph. PH). Stilt Sandpiper observations 15-18 May included 6 at Willard Spur, Box Elder, UT (KP) and one at Duck Cr., Las Vegas, Clark, NV (AL, GS); another was noted 19 May at Overton W.M.A., Clark, NV (AL).

An ad. **Heermann's Gull** made a rare appearance in the Region at Virginia L., Washoe, NV 19 Apr (ph. FP). Mew Gulls were found at Virginia L., Washoe, NV 13-15 Mar (MM et al.), Sky Vista Pond, Reno, Washoe, NV 15-16 (AQ), and Lee Kay Ponds, Salt Lake, UT 19 Apr (ph. BO). A Lesser Black-backed Gull was photographed at Pleasant Grove, Utah, UT 30 Mar (JC), and a first-cycle Glaucous-winged Gull was at Sparks Marina, Washoe, NV 28 Mar (MM). A Least Tern was photographed at H.B.V.P. 26 May (TL, ph. RM et al.).

DOVES THROUGH WARBLERS

The small White-winged Dove colony continued at Price, Carbon, UT through the spring season (ph. SC). A wayward **Common**

Ground-Dove visited Lytle 27 May (fide RF). A Black Swift was briefly observed at Corn Cr. 24 May (RD, RF), and a vagrant Vaux's Swift was reported along the Ogden R., Weber, UT 6 May (JR). A female Anna's Hummingbird visited a feeder in Oak City, Millard, UT 27 May (DA). Acorn Woodpeckers continued in the Kolob Meadows, Washington, UT again this spring (RF et al.).

Eastern Kingbirds turned up outside of expected areas at Fish Springs N.W.R., Juab, UT 14 May (ph. CZ) and Corn Cr. 17-19 May (GS, MM et al.). A **White-eyed Vireo** was a nice surprise at Floyd Lamb 26 May (MA, VH, AH et al.). It was a great spring for vagrant warbler species in the Great Basin. Single Ovenbirds were found at Floyd Lamb 24-26 May (ph. AL, MA et al.), Spring Mountain S.P., Clark, NV 24 May (ph. AL), Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder, UT 25 May (†DW, LL), Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 26-28 May (GS, MA, RSt, DG), and Lytle 27-28 May (ph. RF, DT, JD). Worm-eating Warblers were photographed at Corn Cr. 18 May (GS) and Floyd Lamb 27 May (CR). Eleven Northern Waterthrushes were observed 6-26 May in Clark, Esmeralda, and Lincoln, NV (GS, MM) and in Davis, Utah, and Wasatch, UT (EH, MMo, DH, NJ). A **Blue-winged Warbler** found at Floyd Lamb 24 May (ph. AL) was one of the highlights of the season. Black-and-white Warblers were present at Corn Cr. 5-19 May (MR, DD, RSt), Arlemonte Ranch, Esmeralda, NV 12 May (GS, MA), Floyd Lamb 24 May (AL), and Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 28 May (D&RS). Prothonotary Warblers were at Corn Cr. 18-19 May (KW, GS, MM) and Lytle 22 May (ph. RF). Spring Tennessee Warblers were found at Red Butte, Salt Lake, UT 19 May (†JS), Miller's

R.A. 25 May (ph. RF, RD), and Floyd Lamb 26-30 May (fide GS, AL). A female Hooded Warbler was observed at Circle L Ranch, Esmeralda, NV 5-6 May (MM, GS). The only American Redstarts reported this season were females at Torrance Ranch, Nye, NV 27 May (DS, N&KM) and Garr Ranch, Antelope I. 29 May (EL). There were more Northern Parula reports this spring than usual: Miller's R.A. 12 May (GS, MA), Provo Airport Dike, Utah, UT 14 May (†EH), Corn Cr. 17-24 May (GS et al.), Lytle 18 May (KS, RS, JSt), Floyd Lamb 24-29 May (AL, CR et al.), and St. George, Washington, UT 27 May (†DT, JD). Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported from Corn Cr.



An adult Heermann's Gull made a rare appearance in the Great Basin 19 April 2012 at Virginia Lake, Reno, Washoe County, Nevada. Photograph by Fred Petersen.

18 May (*fide* GS), Floyd Lamb 24-27 May (ph. AL et al.), and Garr Ranch, Antelope I. 27 May (ph. J&KB). Spring Palm Warblers were observed in Lincoln, NV 4 May (ph. MM) and Floyd Lamb 24 May (ph. AL). A male Wilson's Warbler found in Lincoln, NV 25 Mar (GS) was unusually early.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Single Clay-colored Sparrows were observed at Floyd Lamb 12 May (AL) and again 24 May (ph. AL). Lark Buntings made appearances at Magna, Salt Lake, UT 16 May (EH, ph. EP, ph. JC) and Antelope I. 20 May (ph. NJ, TA, JB). A Swamp Sparrow was reported at Duck Cr., Las Vegas, Clark, NV 19 Mar (GS). Single White-throated Sparrows were observed at Stillwater N.W.R., Churchill, NV 3 Mar–20 Apr (WH) and Benson, Cache, UT 4 Apr (RO), and 2 were at Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 12 May (GS, MA). Harris's Sparrows were found at Croydon, Morgan, UT 1-2 Apr (WS) and Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 5-12 May (ph. MM, GS). Eleven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported in the window 5-30 May in Clark (MR, JR, AL), Churchill (CA), and Esmeralda, NV (MM, VH, GS) and in Cache (MF), Davis (EL), Millard (DA), and Utah, UT (MMo). Wayward Bobolinks visited Corn Cr. 13-



One of three Mew Gulls observed in the Great Basin in spring 2012, this first-cycle bird visited Virginia Lake, Reno, Washoe County, Nevada 13-15 (here 13) March. Photograph by Martin Meyers.

20 May (RSa, JBo), Lincoln, NV 13 May (GS), and Miller's R.A. 25 May (ph. RD, RF). A male Common Grackle was photographed at Corn Cr. 24 May (ph. RF, RD). Surprisingly, male **Bronzed Cowbirds** turned up in both Utah and Nevada on 19 May. The Utah cowbird was photographed near Rockville, Washington (ph. BO); the Nevada cowbird was more cooperative, lingering at Parker Ranch, Nye (ph. LC et al.) well into Jun. Three White-winged Crossbills were observed along the Tony Grove Rd., Cache, UT 7 May (AK).

Contributors and cited observers: David Allen, Aaron Ambos, Carol Amos, Meg Andrews, Tim

Avery, Brittany Badger, Joel & Kathy Beyer, Jeff Bilsky, Jack Binch (JBi), Jim Boone (JBo), Steve Christensen, Jeff Cooper, Laura Cunningham, Jane Day, Rob Dobbs, Dave Donsker, Debbie Van Dooremolen, Mike Fish, Rick Fridell, Dennis Ghigleiri, Carol Gwynn, Dave Hanscom, William Henry, Andrew Howe, Vernon Howe, Eric Huish, Norm Jensen, Mike Johnson, Andy Kleinhesselink, Tiffany Lance, Andrew Lee, Edson Leite, Laura Lockhart, Keeli, Marvel, Neil & Karen McDonal, Mia McPherson (MMc), Martin Meyers, Randy Michal, Milt

Moody (MMo), Ryan O'Donnell, Bryant Olsen, Fred Petersen, Eric Peterson, Tanner Poe, Kristin Purdy, Alan de Queiroz, Jack Rensel, Mike Resch, Tim Ricks, Jack Ruckdeschal (JRu), Chris Ruiz-Gardner, Richard Saval (RSa), Greg Scyphers, Dennis & Rebecca Serdehely, Jack Skalicky, Weston Smith, Steve & Cindy Sommerfeld, Kay Stone, Reed Stone, Jim Strong (JSt), Rose Strickland (RSt), Dan Trujillo, Ron Walker, Alan Wallace, Kevin Wallace, David Wheeler, Rich Young, Candy Zaffis. ☺

Rick Fridell, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, 451 North SR 318, Hurricane, Utah 84737, (rfridell@burgoyne.com)

Alaska



Thede Tobish

Following a long and snowy winter, early spring showed promising breaks in the stormy, colder conditions. April turned out to be unseasonably warm nearly Region-wide, with local temperatures pushing way above average highs. Much of March and April was cloudless. Of course, given the winter's re-

cord snowpacks in many areas, even unusually warm, sunny conditions did little to produce favorable ephemeral habitats in the early part of the spring. Early migrants were not impressive or consistent, especially once the cooler, cloudy, windy conditions commenced in May, brought on in part by a lack of storms and very cool sea surface temperatures across the northern part of the Gulf

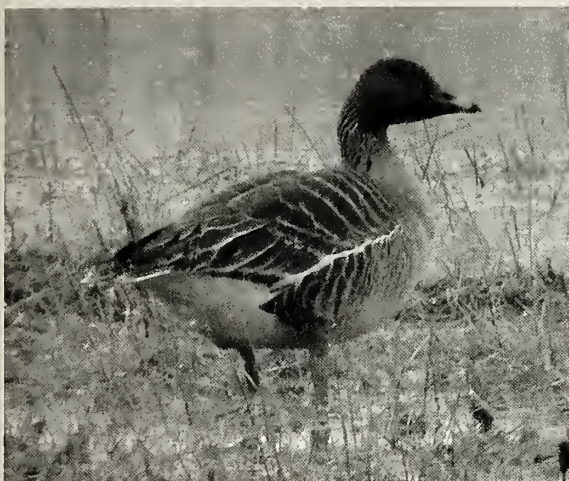
of Alaska. The latter part of the season seemed to languish, with many arrivals later than average dates.

Although the season's overall peak pack ice coverage was one of the lowest since 1979, the southerly extent, which peaked on 18 March, represented a new record. It was not surprising then that this spring's Bering Sea pack ice retreat was also very slow and late. This odd pattern resulted in late concentrations of eiders and other species associated with pack ice.

There were only about three spring storms of note during the height of migration (mid-May through early June), and so reports from the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands were mostly unremarkable, with low numbers and diversity of Asian species. At Gambell, Lehman also noted lower numbers of many of the regular migrants from that section of the Bering Sea. Nevertheless, the Pribilofs had a fair share of notable reports, especially in the season's first half, and the North Gulf Coast communities, especially around the Greater Anchorage area, produced a phenomenal number of rarities this season, certainly in part because of observer coverage.

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

Birders at St. Paul documented a Tundra Bean-Goose in the island's wetlands 12-27 May (St. Paul Tour), the earliest of the now seven Pribilofs records and the season's only report. For the 2nd consecutive spring, a Greater White-fronted Goose of the Tule (*elgasi*) subspecies was documented at Sitka 4 May (ph. MRG),



Since Bean Goose was split into two species, observers have been keen to learn how to distinguish them, and photographs are helpful in making an accurate identification. This goose present on St. Paul Island, Alaska 12-27 (here 22) May 2012 shows the shorter, stubbier bill with a more triangular base and shorter, thicker neck typical of Tundra Bean-Goose. Photograph by Aaron J. Lang.

the 3rd substantiated record of this subspecies from Alaska's Southeast. A Snow Goose was at Adak 25-31 May (FH, BH), where there are a few spring observations, and one or 2 was in the Pribilofs at St. Paul 20-29 May (St. Paul Tour). A white goose photographed in the Anchorage area 18+ Apr (TT, ph. DMT) appeared to be a Ross's Goose with a cracked bill; there is one previous Anchorage record, also from

SA King Eiders made big news early in the season at the s. end of their typical winter range, during a time when most are normally headed northward. These aggregations were no doubt influenced by the record southerly extent of this winter's Bering Sea pack ice, which also retreated slowly. Huge numbers concentrated through late winter well into Apr off Dutch Harbor Spit, including a peak count of 60+ on 6 Apr, and 3 remained through 5 May (SG et al.). Small numbers are more the norm around Unalaska each winter into early spring. In the Pribilofs, St. Paul birders tallied exceptional eider counts late in the season, highlighted by groups of 3000 on 2 Apr and at least 1000 still in the area through 23 May (St. Paul Tour), a time of year when a dozen would be typical. At Gambell, observers reported average or slightly below-average King Eider numbers this season, but large assemblages were found fairly late, including 2500 through the end of May and a one-day passage of 850 by the Point 3 Jun (Wings).

spring, of this casual migrant. A single Cackling Goose at Gustavus 9 Apr (NKD) was about two weeks early. Waterfowl highlights and notable concentrations were subpar this spring, with very few significant finds in the Bering Sea or Aleutians. A hen Gadwall was at St. Paul I. 8-20 May (St. Paul Tour). The season's only wigeon at Gambell was a male American there 28 May (Wings), where the species is casual. Now almost expected in spring, a male Cinnamon Teal appeared at Juneau 5-7 May (BBP, MWS, PAR, GBV). A very late flock of 120 Northern Shovelers surprised Sitka birders 28 May (RP) and provided a new local high count. A Canvasback around Unalaska that arrived in late winter lingered through 30

Apr (ph. SG et al.); the species is considered casual there, with most records in winter. Thirty-five Ring-necked Ducks in the Gustavus area 8 May (NKD) represented an above-average tally for Southeast, where scattered small numbers are the norm. Three Tufted Ducks were located at irregular intervals around Unalaska all period (ph. SG), where this regular Aleutian visitor is probably annual. Rare Lesser Scaup were in evidence in the Bering Sea and Aleutians, including a male at Adak's boat harbor 16 May (AJP), 2 in freshwater pools at St. Paul 22-30 May (St. Paul Tour), and another male in Unalaska's Captain's Bay 26 Apr (SG, RAM); some of these had likely overwintered locally.

Three female Barrow's Goldeneyes on Unalaska L. 24 Apr (SG, RAM, EM) made for a decent count in the Aleutians, where singles are the norm, reported mostly from the e. end of the Chain. The season's lone Smew report was of a female that hung around Attu 15-24 May (Zugunruhe Tours). A Hooded Merganser was s. of Palmer 18 May (CS), the only notable report received of the species. Two Ruddy Ducks at Sitka's Swan L. 30 May (ph. MRG) provided only a 3rd local record.

Lehman characterized the season's loon passage off the Point at Gambell as near average for Red-throated and Arctic but as poor, again, for Pacific, with a low total of 290 into mid-Jun, and above

average for Yellow-billed, with a season tally of 86 through 12 Jun (PEL). Above-average Red-necked Grebe aggregations were notable in Southeast, including 70 and then 69 in Ketchikan's Clover Passage 3 & 11 Mar, respectively (SCH, AWP), and 41 near Juneau 28 Apr (PMS), which accounted for one of that area's largest peak counts ever. A Western Grebe that wintered at Juneau through 17 Mar (PMS) was a good find n. of the species' normal Southeast winter range. Most surprising was the Black-footed Albatross discovered in the n. end of Revillagigedo Channel 4 Apr (BW, ph. MS), 21 km s. of Ketchikan and nearly 48 km from open waters at Dixon Entrance. At least one Great Blue Heron made the rounds of Anchorage coastal sites 15-31 May (MJL, DR, m.ob.); the species is a rare, not annual spring overshoot here, with the nearest breeding areas at Prince William Sound. The Pearce family had an exciting flyby **Great Egret** near Portage 28 May (JP, *vide* RLS, ph. TT, LJO, ph. AJL, m.ob.). This restless bird frequently flew off, only to return hours later, staying in the general area through 31 May. Of the now approximately 19 Alaska records, all since 1980, at least six are from the Aleutians, all probably of the Old World subspecies *modesta*.

EAGLES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

White-tailed Eagles made news in the Bering Sea, where casual. A subad around St. Paul 13-31 May and later (St. Paul Tour, ph. SS) was a first for the Pribilofs, while Gambell birders found 2, an imm. on 24 May (NST, ph. TR, *vide* PEL) and a subad. on 4 Jun (Wilderness Birding); there are two prior spring reports from St. Lawrence Island. The lone Sharp-shinned Hawk reported in winter hung around downtown Unalaska through at least 15 Mar (ph. SG); another was photographed along the Teller Rd. near Nome 23 May (ph LHD, NRH,



This Great Egret was present south of Anchorage near Portage, Alaska 28-31 (here 31) May 2012. It remained in intertidal marshes but regularly flew off and out of sight, as if continuing its migration, only to return to the original location. Alaska has just eighteen previous records, all since 1980. Photograph by Aaron J. Lang.



This subadult White-tailed Eagle drifted over Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska 4 June 2012 and was the second of two birds located there this season. Photograph by Peter Schoenberger.

LEP), likely a first spring record for the outer Seward Peninsula. A light-morph Swainson's Hawk reached Fairbanks 31 May (ID, JP, *fide* ND), not far from the University of Alaska agricultural fields where this rare, local e. Interior breeder is occasionally found, usually in early spring.

Sandhill Cranes made a strong showing in Southeast this season, highlighted by an ad. in distraction display at Ohmer Slough on Mitkof I. in late May, which suggested local nesting; a pair nested there in summer 2011 (LB). Probably due to the few storms this season, Asian shorebirds showed poorly, with stints topping the list. The outstanding exception to this dearth was the Eurasian Oystercatcher at Buldir I. 26 May (ILJ, ph. RAD, MG), the first for Alaska, a bird of the distinctive *osculans* subspecies, which breeds as close as Kamchatka. Other Aleutian highlights included a very rare Semipalmated Plover at Attu 20 May (Zugunruhe Tours) and a Common Greenshank 29 May at Adak (FH, BH), where May coverage was good. St. Paul had a Greater and a Lesser Yellowlegs, 23-30 & 22 May, respectively; both are rare in the Pribilofs in spring. A Solitary Sandpiper at St. Paul 25-27 May (St. Paul Tour) was the Pribilofs' 5th ever; and a Sanderling in freshwater wetlands at St. Paul 23 May (St. Paul Tour) was the 2nd in spring for the Pribilofs. A male Wilson's Phalarope at St. Paul 31 May (St. Paul Tour, ph. RO) constituted the first Bering Sea record and one of few records for w. Alaska; another spent 28-29 May at Juneau (RJG, GBV, ph. MAM), where there are multiple spring records. Lehman described the spring shorebird showing at Gambell as poor, with highlights being different Terek Sandpip-



This Wilson's Phalarope at St. Paul Island 31 May 2012 added to the ever-growing list of mainland North American species that have wandered into the Bering Sea, where this represents a first record. What a strange sight it must have been to see this bird foraging among intertidal boulders next to Least Auklets! Photograph by Ryan P. O'Donnell.

ers 23 & 23-24 May, a Lesser Yellowlegs 25-26 May, and a Temminck's Stint 26 May (all Naturescape, *fide* PEL), with another Temminck's noted 7 Jun (Wilderness Birding). A group of 19 Ruffs 25 May (Naturescape, *fide* PEL), made Gambell's 2nd highest ever tally. A Wood Sandpiper stopped near downtown Nome 27 May (ph. LHD, NR, LEP), where rare.

The Southeast's hotspots offered the bulk of the season's shorebird reports of note, highlighted by a good showing of American Golden-Plovers in n. Southeast, with a peak 93 at Gustavus 17-18 May (NKD, BBP), 20 at Haines 17 May (MD), and 28 at Sitka 18 May (MRG), where the species is rare. Hudsonian Godwits were well dispersed across Southeast sites, where normally rare but regular, including 3 each at Haines 17 & 20 May (MD) and Sitka 7 May (MRG). A Bar-tailed Godwit was at Gustavus 8-10 May (ph. NKD, BBP), the normal e. edge of its spring arrival zone. Thirty Red Knots near Sitka 20 May (ph. MRG) made an exceptional high count for anywhere in Southeast. The total of 11 Semipalmated Sandpipers near the Ketchikan Airport 11 May (AWP, SCH) furnished a local record high count. Casual away from w. Alaska and the Bering Sea and Aleutian islands was a Red-necked Stint at Juneau 28 May (†RJG); there are very few South-coastal records between the Bering Sea and Juneau and just one prior Southeast sight record. Another Red-necked on the cen. North Slope at the Colville R. estuary 27 May (JH) was a first for that location in 20 years. The occurrence of up to 3 Bristle-thighed Curlews at

the mouth of the Anchor R. in May stirred Kenai Pen. birders. One was discovered 11 May (BM), 2 were there 12 May (DKP, LHD), and 3 were counted 13 May (LN, GM, CW). Up to 3 lingered through 21 May (m.ob.), with one staying until 30 May (BKP, BD). It is curious that up to 3 occurred and then lingered so long so far from the breeding grounds; the Kenai Pen. has very few previous spring reports.

Reports of rarer gulls were subpar this spring, surprising given the Ber-

ing Sea pack ice situation. In fact, Lehman noted below-average showings for most of the regular gulls at Gambell. Three Ivory Gulls flying by St. Paul's Reef Pt. 8 May (St. Paul Tour) were very late s. Bering Sea migrants; previous spring reports are mostly from Mar and Apr in years when the pack ice is in close proximity. A subad. Ivory Gull rested briefly in Anchorage tidelands 7 May (ph. LD, DP), representing an amazing 3rd local record, all from May. Also extralimital and casual in the Interior, an ad. Black-headed Gull was photographed on Otto L. near Healy 16 May (ph. EH). Kodiak birders relocated their Black-tailed Gull a few additional times this spring, with the last sighting on 23 Apr (SB). An ad. Ring-billed Gull described from Creamer's Field in Fairbanks 12 May (JR-G) added to the ca. 10 Interior spring records of this species, all of which are from the Fairbanks area. St. Paul birders identified a first-cycle Thayer's Gull, rare in the Bering Sea and only the 3rd in spring for the Pribilofs, 31 May (St. Paul Tour). At Kodiak, the gull hordes feeding on fish processing waste attracted a first-cycle Iceland Gull 14 Mar (ph. RAM); there are at least three prior documented records of Ice-



No doubt influenced by the late-winter's record extent of sea ice in the southern Bering Sea, this Black Guillemot photographed at St. Paul Island, Alaska 13 May 2012 was part of a record influx of the species to the Pribilofs this spring, where up to 26 was the peak and several birds remained almost through the end of May. Photograph by Ryan P. O'Donnell.

land Gull for the Kodiak area. A Western Gull appeared in Southeast this spring at Sitka 27 Mar–1 Apr (ph. MRG, MLW, MET), where both hybrids and typical Westerns are casual, mainly in the late fall to early spring period. Sitka has produced ad. Western Gulls now in three of the past five springs in this same period. Southeast had a widespread showing of Caspian Terns, with reports from at least seven communities. Of interest was an aggressive pair at Craig 30 May (RBB), suggesting breeding. A colony of 16 ads. and four nests with eggs at the Taku R. in 2000 is the only documented Southeast nesting record s. of the larger Icy Bay colony. For the 3rd consecutive spring, Caspian Terns appeared in the Nome area, mostly in the vicinity of Safety Sound. Two Caspians at Safety were first arrivals 27 May (BKS), and numbers there peaked at approximately 7, including several pairs in courtship 3 Jun (BKS, DH, LHD, NRH). At least one, possibly 2 White-winged Terns were described well off the Homer Spit 17 May (CW, †JB), potentially the earliest of the Alaska records (there are six previous records) and the 2nd record for Kachemak Bay.

Ketchikan's Clover Passage produced an exceptional tally of 2150 Common Murres 3 Mar (AWP), one of that area's highest concentrations. An unprecedented spring influx of Black Guillemots was noted in the s. Bering Sea at St. Paul, no doubt associated with the southerly pack ice. Birds were noted daily 7–31 May, with an amazing peak of 26 on 20 May (St. Paul Tour); single birds are the norm here. Although Black Guillemot counts of similar numbers often come from shipboard surveys late in the winter season, these are clearly the highest ever figures for the Pribilofs. By contrast, Black Guillemot numbers were average at Gambell.

Counts of Eurasian Collared-Dove in Southeast were considerably lower than last spring, with the only double-digit concentrations occurring at Ketchikan, e.g., 15 at one feeder 4 Mar (PSD). A Western Screech-Owl was a surprise in the lower Anchor R. drainage n. of Homer 21 May (MJI, CW, JB, TL); there are only a few Kenai Pen. records away from the greater Seward area. A single Short-eared Owl was a fine late-winter and Aleutian find near Dutch Harbor 14 May (LA, *fide* SG). A waif Northern Saw-whet Owl located in a Kodiak yard 8–13 Apr (ph. DD), where there the species had only been recorded once previously, was later found dead nearby (*RAM). Although Common Nighthawks are probably rare local breeders on some of the larger Mainland draining rivers in Southeast, spring migrants are very unusual. One at Juneau 12 May (BW) was extremely early and provided one of very few spring reports for Alaska away from known nesting areas. On the heels of the past winter's decent showing, a



This Ivory Gull located during the evening high tide on Anchorage, Alaska's Point Woronzof flats 7 May 2012 represented an amazing third area record, all of which have come in May. Photograph by Lucas H. DeCicco.

singing male Anna's Hummingbird made news at the Ketchikan Airport thickets 17–20 May (AWP, ph. SCH); it provided one of the very few spring/summer records for Alaska and one of few not associated with feeders.

PASSERINES

Warbling Vireos are fairly common summer birds in riparian habitats on the larger Southeast Mainland river systems, but they quickly dissipate beyond the Haines/Skagway area; one at Gustavus 28 May (NKD, BBP) made just the 2nd local record. A Juneau birder counted 120 Black-billed Magpies in one flock flying northward over Juneau's Mendenhall L. 24 Mar (DDR), the highest tally for Southeast. Magpies can be fairly common winter visitors in n. Southeast, when the highest numbers typically occur in the late Mar–early Apr period, when winter birds depart to breeding areas largely away from Southeast. Given recent evidence of a northward range expansion for Northwestern Crows on the w. side of the Kenai Pen., it was probably not a surprise that several appeared in the Anchorage area this spring. There was brief flurry of reports, all from 31 May, including 2 near Portage (TB) and 2 different singles at Anchorage (BKP, TT). One at Girdwood 28 May (TT) was at a site frequented by one or more birds. Small numbers of Northwestern Crows have been nearly regular along the Seward Hwy. n. to Bird Creek since the 1990s, but the species is casual n. of there.

Eurasian Skylarks were mostly missing from the early season, but a single along High Cliff at St. Paul 17 May (St. Paul Tour) made a first spring record in 10 years for the Pribilofs, where the species is casual. Several were reported at Gambell in mid-May (*fide* PEL), followed by another 26 May (PEL, m.ob.), the

most ever for a spring season from that locale. Horned Larks were uncharacteristically common this season across much of Southeast, where the species is mostly a local, uncommon migrant on the Mainland. A flock of 25 furnished a new Ketchikan high count 17 May (AWP, SCH), and rarer offshore reports of multiples came from Wrangell, Petersburg, and Sitka 9–20 May. Mainland counts also seemed above average, highlighted by a flock of 85 on the lower Stikine R. 9–15 May (WTS). The usual few Mainland swallows ventured out into the Bering Sea this spring, including 2 Tree Swallows at St. Paul's Northeast Pt. 20–31 May (St. Paul Tour) and one at Gambell, where casual in spring, on 6 Jun (JH), plus a lone Cliff Swallow at St. Paul 21–23 May (St. Paul Tour). In Southeast, a Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Ketchikan 19 Apr (AWP, SCH) established a record-early arrival date for Alaska by nearly two weeks, while 2 Cliff Swallows at Ketchikan's Ward L. 14 Apr (ph. SCH, WTS) provided another record arrival by 10 days. A Cliff Swallow at Homer and 2 at Seward 2 May (AJL, CAG) were considered probably record early for the Kenai Peninsula. Swallows seemed late to arrive at most points beyond Southeast.

An above-average 5 Northern Wheatears around St. Paul 12–16 May (St. Paul Tour) included a record-early arrival for the Pribilofs. One at Gambell was also considered very early 16 May (CI, *fide* PEL). Along with the usual scattered reports of Mountain Bluebird from Mainland Southeast, several sites produced unprecedented numbers, highlighted by 36 at Hyder 23 Apr (BUK) and then 30 there 8 May (NRH), plus 12 on the lower Stikine R. 4–6 May (BLH, TO). Of the handful of Interior reports, most intriguing were several from the w. edges, including at least 5 in a burned forest

near Tolovana Hot Springs nw. of Fairbanks 13-14 Apr (TM, *vide* ND) and a female at Galena (date not known; PA). Casual for St. Lawrence I. was a single American Robin at Gambell 23 May (Naturescape). The infamous and sought-after Dusky Thrush overwintered successfully in west-side Anchorage neighborhoods and was last observed 17 Mar (MW, TT). Varied Thrush pushed into the Bering Sea this spring, where the species is very rare and not annual. A female at St. Paul I. 20 May (St. Paul Tour) was considered the Pribilofs' 10th record, while up to 5 were tallied for the season at Gambell 27 May-12 Jun (m.ob.). One wandered out of the Interior to the North Slope near the Colville R. mouth quite early on 10 May (JH).

A female White Wagtail, possibly of subspecies *ocularis*, was seen at the mouth of Adak's NAVFAC Cr. 14 May (AJL); this is a stream entering Kuluk Bay n. of the ne. part of the Adak Airport. A clear-cut male *lugens* White Wagtail was seen the same day on the Adak jetty (DM). At Gambell, three White Wagtail pairs took up residence, where one nest with eggs was located 7 Jun (NRH, PEL). At St. Paul, where the species is casual, singles were seen 7-12 & 27 May (St. Paul Tour); the 7 May sighting represented the Pribilofs' earliest spring record. An early Snow Bunting flock near Fairbanks 4 Apr (ND) included a Lapland Longspur in transitional plumage, early but in line with the half-dozen other extreme early Interior arrival dates for this species. The first Lapland Longspur for Unalaska was also quite early for the Aleutians on 24 Apr (SG, RAM, EM). Interesting early spring McKay's Bunting accounts included at least one around Unalaska village 1-19 Mar (ph. SG), where the species is casual, and at least 3 at St. Paul village 28 Mar-1 Apr (St. Paul Tour).

White-crowned Sparrow is typically an uncommon spring migrant in Southeast, so a tally of 110 at Hyder 8 May (NRH) easily represents one of Southeast's highest counts. In tandem with these numbers, exceptional counts of Golden-crowned Sparrows were made during poor weather conditions near their peak migratory season, illustrated by a flock of at least 250 in Piston's Ketchikan driveway 13 May (ph. AWP), with strong numbers elsewhere in the area. A few of the Unalaska area winter Golden-crowned Sparrows remained there, singing sporadically through 7 Jun (SG). A few Dark-eyed Juncos along hung on at Unalaska, where a flock of 12 was seen into early Apr, with 2 there through 25 Apr (SG, RAM, EM). The lone Dark-eyed Junco offshore at St. Paul I. was record early for the Pribilofs 7 May (St. Paul Tour); this species is nearly annual there. The occurrence of Dark-eyed Junco on Gambell is similar that on the Pribilofs; a late single

was there 11-12 Jun (LHD), the spring's only find on St. Lawrence Island. A female Rustic Bunting at Attu 18 May (Zugunruhe Tours) made the only report of the season. Two Black-headed Grosbeaks continued a trend from the late 1990s that has brought a few birds in spring and/or fall annually into Southeast: one was at a Wrangell feeder 26 Apr (KM, JM), on the early side of spring dates, and the other was along the Stikine R. 18 May (ST). A Stikine R. resident from farther upstream in Canada regularly sees Black-headed, so the species may well reach its n. breeding limits farther n. than published reports, which place the species' breeding limits farther s., in British Columbia.

While leading a bird walk at the Ketchikan Airport thickets, Heinl observed a flyby male Yellow-headed Blackbird 28 Apr (SCH), a 3rd local record and the earliest of the spring reports for this casual visitor to Alaska. Bramblings were detected in small numbers at the usual outposts, with 4 at St. Paul I. 7-18 May (St. Paul Tour), a record-early arrival date for the Pribilofs. Three Pine Grosbeaks arrived during a spring blizzard in ornamental spruces at Unalaska 4 Apr and stayed until 15 Apr (ph. SG), the first record for Unalaska. At the far end of the Aleutian Chain, at least one Pine Grosbeak was located at Attu 15 & 23 May (Zugunruhe Tours), where there are a few spring reports and where the ne. Asian subspecies *kamtschatkensis* has been collected. It was a banner year for Purple Finch in Southeast, with multiples observed from all sections of the Panhandle. One or 2 Purples attended Ketchikan feeders from late winter through 26 Mar (CAF, KMR), and another was located there 12 Apr (JFK). On the Stikine R., a single was reported from Guerran Slough 18 May (WTS). That same observer reported several in winter at his Telegraph Cr. home upriver in Canada. Farther n., a male came in to a Klukwan feeder in the Chilkat R. valley 12 May, followed by 2 female-plumaged birds 24 May+ (ph. CPS). Purple Finch is casual away from the Ketchikan area, where it is very rare and nearly annual in fall/winter. The Homer area's winter Purple Finch was last noted at its favored feeder 28 Mar (AJL, TR et al.). Southeast observers described Red Crossbills as virtually absent; they noted only two isolated small flocks, one at Gustavus 28 May (BBP), the other at Sitka 18 Apr-31 May (MRG). Elsewhere, Red Crossbills were noted only at Kodiak, where MacIntosh characterized the species as uncommon and where begging young were seen at a feeder 25 May (RAM, SB). A bright male Oriental Greenfinch was a highlight of the trip to Attu 17 May (Zugunruhe Tours). A male Eurasian Bullfinch hung around the vil-

lage at St. Paul I. 12-19 May (St. Paul Tour), the Pribilofs' first ever in spring and 5th overall. Casual in spring for the Region were 2 female Evening Grosbeaks, one at Juneau 28-30 May (ph. GSB, MEF), the other on the lower Stikine R. 22 May (WTS). The Palmer area Evening Grosbeak from winter was last seen at its favorite feeder 7 Apr (CS). This spring's few Hawfinch reports included one at Adak 23 May joined by another 24-31 May (FH, BH), plus one at St. Paul's Reef Pt. 23-31 May (St. Paul Tour).

Contributors and observers: L. Adams, J. B. Allen, P. Apfelbeck, G. S. Baluss, J. Barry, R. B. Benter, S. Berns, M. G. Burcham, L. & T. A. Burke, M. Criss, I. Davies, E. L. H. DeCicco, B. H. Demerjian, M. Denker, N. DeWitt (Interior), B. Ditttrick, P. S. Doherty, N. K. Drumheller, R. A. Dugan, D. Dumm, P. Eldridge, T. M. Ellis, T. D. Eskelin, M. E. Frank, C. A. Fultz, S. Garcia, D. D. Gibson, M. R. Goff, M. Goh, S. Golodoff, R. J. Gordon, J. Randsdell-Green, C. A. Griswold, F. & B. Haas, C. Harwood, N. R. Hajdukovich, M. C. Harris, S. C. Heinl (Southeast), I. Helmericks, E. Henderickson, D. Hodgkinson, B. L. Hunter, M. J. Iliff, C. Irrigoo, K. Johnson, I. L. Jones, W. Keys, M. Kilcher, B. Uher-Koch, J. F. Koerner, A. J. Lang (South-coastal Alaska), P. E. Lehman, T. Lenz, J. H. Lewis, S. B. Lewis, J. D. Levison, T. W. Lohse, R. A. MacIntosh, D. MacKay, D. K. MacPhail, C. Mannix, G. Matz, M. A. McCafferty, C. McIntyre, B. Meiklejohn, N. Mollett, J. & K. Morse, T. Mowry, E. Munk, Naturescape Tours (K. Risen et al.), L. J. Oakley, R. O'Donnell, T. O'Leary, B. B. Paige, J. Parks, D. Pavlik, B. H. Pawuk, J. Pearce, B. Peluso, B. K. Percival, L. Eberhard-Phillips, R. Phillips, A. W. Piston (Southeast), J. Pontii, P. Porchot, D. Porter, L. L. Raymond, M. Renner, T. Reiser, D. Ricky, K. M. Ripley, P. A. Rose, F. Rowland, D. D. Rudis, W. T. Sampson, B. K. Sandercock, C. Sartor, R. L. Scher, M. W. Schwan, A. Sensky, B. Siegel, D. W. Sonneborn, S. Spores, St. Paul Tour (S. Schuette, D. Gochfeld, R. O'Donnell et al.), K. Stenek, G. P. Streveler, P. M. Suchanek, C. P. Suzie, J. Swelstad, K. Tarbox, M. E. Tedin, T. Tobish, S. Todd, D. M. Troy, B. Tweit, G. B. van Vliet, M. L. Ward, S. Weltz, M. Wheatall, B. Widness, Wilderness Birding Tours (R. Ditttrick, J. Huntington et al.), R. Winckler, Wings (J. L. Dunn, P. E. Lehman, R. Hoyer et al.), V. Wilson, J. Withrow, C. Wood, B. Wright, W. T. Young, K. J. Zimmer, S. Zimmerman, Zugunruhe Tours (J. Puschock, I. Helmericks et al.). Referenced details (†), specimens (*), and photographs (ph.) are archived at the University of Alaska Museum. ☉

Theodore Tobish, 2510 Foraker Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99517, (tgttjo@gmail.com), (tgttjo@gci.net; for large files)



Chris Charlesworth

March was cold and wet for all but the northern third of the Region, where things were instead on the mild and dry side. The southeastern corner in the Kootenay country had a very cold and snowy March, one of the worst on record. Mountain winter season snows were copious over the whole Region by the end of March, with many areas reporting snow packs well above average. April remained on the cool side in most areas, but precipitation tapered off somewhat. May was glorious east of the Rockies in the Northeast and in some parts of the southern interior, but other areas had to suffice with brief glimpses of the summer to come.

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

A stormy day on the w. coast of Vancouver I. 30 Apr brought in an estimated flock of 2300 Greater White-fronted Geese with a single Ross's Goose to the Tofino Airport (AD). In the s. Interior, where the species is rare but annual, single Greater White-fronted Geese were in Kelowna at Munson Pond 27 Mar (MD) and at Nakusp in the West Kootenay 29 Apr (GD). For the 3rd spring in a row, a Ross's Goose returned to Duck L. in Creston 14 Apr (GB). Eurasian Teal were found at several locations across the province. All locations were coastal, except for a male found at Munson Pond in Kelowna 25-27 Mar (Ian Walker et al.). On the Lower Mainland, one was at Boundary Bay R.P., Tsawwassen 3 Mar (RC). Another was at Burnaby L. 6 Mar (Peter Lawrence). On Vancouver I., a male was along Corfield Rd. near Duncan 5 Apr (Derrick Marven); another was near Victoria at Tod Flats 15 Apr (MR). Rare spring migrants in the interior of the province, a Long-tailed Duck was at Castlegar 12 May (Gwen Nicol).

An Arctic Loon was photographed at the s. end of Vancouver I. off Jordan River 15 Apr (Louis Haviland). A Yellow-billed Loon lingered at the Tofino Harbour 11-28 Mar (AD et al.). In Howe Sound, a Yellow-billed Loon was at the mouth of Furry Cr. 4 Mar (Ken Wright). A Clark's Grebe, still rare throughout most of British Columbia, was noted at Glencoe Cove near Victoria 18 Mar (Agnes Lynn), and another was on Okanagan L. at the mouth of Mission Cr. near Kelowna 25 Apr (CC). A seabird observer on a research vessel covering waters off the Vancouver I. saw a Mottled Petrel near Carmanah Pt. 3 Mar (Ryan Merrill). Sightings of Manx Shearwaters continue to accrue, with one seen on a pelagic trip out of Ucluelet 29 Apr (Paul Levesque, m.ob.). Rare but annual on lakes of the s. Interior, a Double-crested Cormorant was noted at the n. end of Osoyoos L. 25 Apr (CC). On the North Coast, a Brown Pelican was found in poor condition on a dock at Port Edward near Prince Rupert 30 Mar (*vide* RC). An American White Pelican over Osoyoos 24 Mar (DB) provided an early arrival date for that species. On the Lower Mainland, where American White Pelicans are rare, 8 at Pitt Meadows 9 May (LC, DS) made a high count.

The annual smattering of reports of Great Egrets came in from the s. portion of the province, with a single at the Little Qualicum R. estuary near Nanaimo 26-28 Apr (Ryan Cathers, m.ob.), one along the Fraser R. at Terra Nova Park in Richmond 30 Apr (Daryl Livingston), and one at Jerry Sulina Park in Maple Ridge 2 May (Chris Diersch), this last one apparently present for several days previous. Casual on Vancouver I., a Snowy Egret was at Panama Flats near Victoria 25-29 May (Warren Drinnan, m.ob.). The Okanagan Valley's 3rd White-faced Ibis was sighted at the mouth of Mission Cr. in Kelowna 20 May (GW et al.). Another turned up in a flooded field near Creston 13-15 May (GB et al.). Rare migrants in s. British Columbia in spring, single Broad-winged Hawks were noted at several locations, with an ad. at White L. near Okanagan Falls 25 Apr (CC). Yet another was in the Okanagan at Skaha L. near Penticton 1 May (DCA). In the West Kootenay, a Broad-winged was at Nelson 13 (Janice Arndt) & 25 May (Derek Kite). On Vancouver I., Swainson's Hawks are rare spring migrants. Two different birds, an ad. light morph and an ad. dark morph, were at the Victoria Airport 12-19 May (JG, m.ob.). At Boundary Bay near Vancouver, an imm. Gyrfalcon

took a Green-winged Teal 20 Mar (MT).

Boundary Bay held an ad. Pacific Golden-Plover in alternate plumage 22 May (MT). A freak snowstorm in cen. British Columbia brought down a flock of 80 American Golden-Plovers into fields around Giscome near Prince George 18 May (CA et al.). A Willet that has wintered at the base of the Tsawwassen Jetty near Vancouver for nearly a decade was last noted 24 Mar (WW). On the Sunshine Coast, a Willet was a nice find at Oyster Bay near Campbell River 9 Apr (Wesley Greentree). Four Black-necked Stilts were in the Kootenays along the Kootenay R. near Cranbrook 14 Apr (GS). In the Okanagan, 2 were at Otter L. near Vernon 22 Apr (CS), another was at the mouth of Mission Cr. in Kelowna 24 Apr (CC et al.), and one was at Alki L. in Kelowna 14 May (DC). Two appeared at Panama Flats in Victoria 24 Apr (MR), providing the 4th local checklist record of the species. At Mabers Flats near Victoria, 4 were noted 25 Apr+ (m.ob.). Two of these birds remained and nested, Vancouver I.'s first nesting record. Rare anywhere in the interior, a Whimbrel was at Giscome near Prince George 18 May (Christopher Coxson). In the interior, where the species is a casual spring migrant, a Marbled Godwit was at Separation L. near Kamloops 20-21 May (Ellie Hill et al.). Another Marbled Godwit was noted in the West Kootenay at Nakusp 10 May (GD). A Hudsonian Godwit in alternate plumage was found in fields near Boundary Bay 6 May (RF). On Vancouver I., a Hudsonian was at Dyke Slough in Comox 19 May (Art Martell et al.), and one tarried at Tofino 19-25 May (AD et al.). A Bar-tailed Godwit in prealternate molt was photographed at Brunswick Pt., Ladner 17 May (RS). A female Ruff was a nice find at the Reifel Refuge in Ladner 26 May (BS).

Larger-than-usual numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were tallied on Arrow L. in the W. Kootenay, with 420 seen 28 Apr (GD). At the mouth



Furnishing the Okanagan region's third record, this White-faced Ibis was at the mouth of Mission Creek in Kelowna, British Columbia 20 May 2012. Photograph by Dean O'Dea.



This Acorn Woodpecker, furnishing British Columbia's fifth record, visited a feeder in Merritt 17-27 (here 20) May 2012. Photograph by Brian Carsen.



British Columbia's second Yellow-throated Warbler was found at Revelstoke 26 May 2012. Photograph by Harry van Oort.



In recent years, Black-throated Sparrow has become a nearly annual visitor to British Columbia. This one visited a yard in Yale, in the Fraser Canyon, on 27 May 2012. Photograph by Aaron Gaffney.

of Vernon Cr. at Okanagan Landing, an ad. Iceland Gull of the nominate subspecies was seen 4 Mar (DC). A third-cycle Iceland Gull, also apparently of the nominate subspecies, was at Qualicum Beach on Vancouver I. 11 May (GM). At Clover Pt., Victoria, an imm. Iceland Gull was described 27 Mar (RSc et al.).

The Okanagan Valley solidified its reputation as the **Lesser Black-backed Gull** capital of the province once again, with a second-cycle bird noted at the mouth of Vernon Cr. in Okanagan Landing 1-2 Mar (DC); the bird was seen again about 100 km to the s. at Penticton 6-7 Mar (Dca et al.). In British Columbia, Forster's Terns are rare spring migrants away from their tiny breeding colony in the Creston area. Thus, 3 at the mouth of Mission Cr. in Kelowna 21 May were unexpected (TS, MH et al.). A Caspian Tern at Eaglet L. near Prince George 19 May (NK, EH, CSw) was the only one reported from the cen.

Interior during the period.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES

A male Costa's Hummingbird present in Vancouver since Jun 2010 remained through at least 3 Mar (Graham Chambers). A male Calliope Hummingbird was banded at Iona Island B.O. 14 May (MB). Few records of Broad-tailed Hummingbird exist for British Columbia, so a report of a female at a feeder in Blaeberry in the Rocky Mts. 30 May was exceptional (DL). Rare in spring on Vancouver I., a Lewis's Woodpecker was a welcome find in North Saanich 24 Apr (DA). British Columbia's 5th and 6th records of **Acorn Woodpecker** were established with single females at Merritt 17-27 May (B. Scafe, AB et al.) and near Hope in the Sunshine Valley 16-18 May (Brian Carson). A locally rare Dusky Flycatcher was banded at the Iona Island B.O. 22 May (MB). The usual dose of Say's Phoebes appeared at scattered coastal locations this spring: one at Maplewood Flats Conservation Area in North Vancouver 10-11 Mar (RL), one at Deer L. in Burnaby 16-20 Mar (Jean Johnson, m.ob.), and one near Coquitlam at Colony Farms 20 May (Derek Matthews). In cen. British Columbia, where Western Kingbirds are rare, one seen at Giscome near Prince George 19 May was very noteworthy (KN, EH, CSw). The only Loggerhead Shrike reported this period was at Duck L. near Creston 6 May (RC, GB). A few Blue Jays appeared in the s. interior, including one along Silver Star Rd. in Vernon 25 Apr; this bird also appeared 27 Apr at Cool's Pond, a short distance away (CS). Another was seen several times at a Nakusp feeder, including 17 Mar (GD), and one appeared at Castlegar in the West Kootenay 8 Apr (MM). A Black-billed Magpie seen at Johnson's Landing in the West Kootenay 10 Apr (GS) provided just the 3rd local record in 20 years. Three Barn Swallows noted at Thomson C.A. in

Kelowna 22 Mar (CC) provided a very early record for the s. interior.

A House Wren was singing on territory at the Iona Sewage Ponds, Richmond 28-29 Apr (MTo, ST et al.). The Okanagan's first and British Columbia's 2nd **Sedge Wren** appeared along the Esplanade Trails in Penticton 14 May (RC, JF et al.). A Northern Mockingbird was seen eating holly berries at Squamish 24 Mar (Chris Dale); apparently, this bird had been present for at least two weeks (Patrick MacNamara). West of Williams Lake at the Gang Ranch in the Chilcotin, a singing mockingbird was found 13 May (NK, Robb Paterson). A breeding-plumaged male **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was a superb find along the Iona South Jetty, Richmond 7 May (Tak Shabata, m.ob.). A singing male Magnolia Warbler was at Waldie I. in Castlegar 6 May (RC). Stormy weather produced a fallout of Yellow-rumped Warblers at Iona I., Richmond, with 2000 estimated there, Audubon's and Myrtle in roughly equal number (MB et al.). Another first for the Okanagan Valley, a female Black-throated Gray Warbler was found along the Okanagan R. channel in Penticton 15 May (RC et al.). Another appeared at Princeton 24 May (Amanda Lahaie). The province's 2nd **Yellow-throated Warbler** was photographed at Revelstoke 26 May (Harry Van Oort).

A Brewer's Sparrow, most likely of the Timberline subspecies (*taverneri*), was at Iona I., Richmond 21 May (KL). On Vancouver I., a Brewer's Sparrow sang daily at Swan L. in Victoria 21-24 May (IC, m.ob.), and another was at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt near Victoria 23 May (Bill Katz). On the Lower Mainland, one was at Cecil Green Park, Vancouver 21 May (BD). In recent years, Black-throated Sparrow sightings have become almost annual. This year continued the trend, with a singing bird noted at Osoyoos 10 May (DB) and another at a bird bath in Yale in the Fraser Canyon 27 May (Aaron Gaffney). A **Sage Sparrow** was an exciting find at Munson Pond, Kelowna 12 Apr (Avery Bartels). Vesper Sparrows on the Lower Mainland appeared at the Iona Sewage Ponds, Richmond 26-28 Apr (WD, BD et al.) and at Ambleside Park in West Vancouver 6 May (Mike Fung).

In the Kootenays, 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found at Lardeau 24 May (Marlene Johnston). A dead male Indigo Bunting was picked up on Saturna I. in the Gulf Island chain 30 May (*vide* JK). Two female Rusty Blackbirds fed on Russian Olive berries at Haynes Point P.P., Osoyoos 13 Mar (CC, MD). A Lesser Goldfinch at a feeder in Princeton 18-19 May (Sue Elwell) provided the 2nd local record for the checklist area. At the McCulloch Nordic Cross-Country Ski Trails near Kelowna, 2 Hoary Redpolls

graced feeders 1 Mar and later (CC, m.ob.). Other singles were on Anarchist Mt. near Os-oyoos 22 Mar (DCa et al.) and at a feeder in Salmon Arm 22 Mar (Geoff Styles).

Observers: David Allinson, Mike Boyd, Gary Breault, Doug Brown, Alan Burger, Dick Cannings (DCa), Russell Cannings, Don Cecile,

Chris Charlesworth, Larry Cowan, Ian Cruickshank, Gary Davidson, Brent Diakow, Wayne Diakow, Matthias Deier, Adrian Dorst, Jess Findlay, Roger Foxall, Jeremy Gatten, Michelle Hamilton, Elizabeth Hewison, Jeremy Kimm, Nancy Krueger, Douglas Leighton, Rob Lyske, Kevin Louth, Michael McMann, Guy Monty, Mary Robichaud, Dave Schutz, Tanya See-

bacher, Brian Self, Chris Siddle, Cathie Sweet (CSw), Gail Spitler, Rick Schortinghuis (RSc), Richard Swanston, Mike Tabak, Sharon Toochn, Mike Toochn (MTo), Wayne Weber, Gwyneth Wilson. ☺

Chris Charlesworth, 725 Richards Road, Kelowna, British Columbia V1X 2X5, (c_charlesworth23@hotmail.com)

Oregon & Washington



**David Irons
Brad Waggoner
Ryan Merrill**

Cold and wet springs now seem to be the norm in much of the Region. For the fifth consecutive year, this period was marked by below-normal temperatures and above-normal precipitation. March was especially brutal, evidenced by Seattle recording twice the normal precipitation and average temperatures 3.4° C below normal. The cold and wet conditions moderated during most of April and the first part of May, but cooler and damper conditions returned to finish off the season.

White-faced Ibis and Franklin's Gulls showed quite well in eastern Washington, with the latter appearing earlier in spring than ever before. Exceptional numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers along with notably rarer Curlew and White-rumped Sandpipers created shorebird excitement in a season that typically produces none. The westward push of eastside landbirds, always a staple of our spring reports, was extraordinary this season. The strong winter finch flight left behind numerous stragglers, with some persisting into April. There was one potential Regional first reported and yet an-

other intriguing addition to Region's long list of hybrids.

Abbreviations: Ankeny (Ankeny N.W.R., Marion); ER.R. (Fern Ridge Res., Lane); McNary (McNary N.W.R., Walla Walla); Nisqually (Nisqually N.W.R., Thurston); N.S.C.B. (North Spit Coos Bay, Coos); O.S. (Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor); P.N.P. (Point No Point, Kitsap); P.S.B. (Port Susan Bay, Snohomish); P.T. (Puget Trough); Ridgefield (Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

Peak northbound flights of Greater White-fronted Geese pushed through during the last week of Apr and the first week of May, with a high count of 2000 at Brownsmead, Clatsop 4 May (MP). Winter holdover Emperor Geese included one at O.S. through 1 Apr (m.ob.) and 2 at Dungeness, Clallam through 30 Apr (fide BB). The early spring build-up of Snow Geese at Sauvie I. peaked at 3000 birds 6 Mar (J. Gatchet, W. Gross). A few Snows now stray annually to the Oregon coast; 3 were in Coos 2 Mar–15 Apr (TR), and one lingered at Tillamook through 8 May (M. Clarke). Now nearly annual in the Region, a Snow Goose x Ross's Goose hybrid visited Palix R. estuary, Pacific 5–8 May (J. Hadley, R. Robinson). Now the norm, a blue-morph Snow Goose was detected with white Snows from the Wrangel I., Siberia population at Fir I., Skagit 1 Apr (MW). Ross's Geese flooded into w. Washington, with 7 detected (2 are normal) 3 Mar–5 May, with a maximum of 4 at Brady Loop, Grays Harbor 14 Apr (ph. L. A. Skillen); one at Coos Bay 15 Apr (TR) made the lone report from w. Oregon. Conversely, just 4 Ross's Geese were noted in e. Washington this spring, including a tardy single at Peone Wetland, Spokane 10 May (JI). In e. Oregon, 10 Ross's at Houston L., Crook 16 Apr (TC) was an excellent count away from favored sites in the Great Basin. Single Brant, barely annual away from salt water, were at Grants Pass 1 Mar (ph. J. Wallace) and Washougal, Clark

14–17 Apr (BF); the former is only the 2nd for *Josephine*, where the introduced *moffitti* Canada Goose is the only expected *Branta*. Single Trumpeter Swans at Mud L., Skagit 16 May (fide M. Jordan) and the Samish R. mouth, Skagit 19 May (RM) were about a month after the normal westside departure date for this species; Trumpeters have lingered into May and beyond more frequently over the past decade. Four Tundra Swans at McNary 5 May (M. O'Malley) were about three weeks tardy.

On par with the past five years, 25 Eurasian Wigeons were noted in e. Washington; the latest was at Calispell L., Pend Oreille 25 May (TL). Away from the Klamath Basin, just 6 Eurasians were reported in e. Oregon 1 Mar–16 Apr; up to 4 inhabited La Grande 18–23 Mar (TB). Single Mallard x Gadwall hybrids were detected at Marymoor, King 19–27 Apr (MH) and Samish Flats, Skagit 25 Apr (RM); this cross is not found annually in the Region. Blue-winged Teal at N.S.C.B. 9 Mar (TR) were exceptional, as this species rarely winters in the Region, and northbound migrants typically do not arrive before late Apr. Lake Abert, Lake continues to be an important stopover for migrant Northern Shovelers, as evidenced by a tally of 16,302 there on 13 Apr (S. Dougill). For the 2nd consecutive spring, Eurasian Teal showed poorly, with just 4 noted 3–10 Mar. More surprising was the lack of Eurasian Teal x Green-winged Teal reports; in recent years, the Region has averaged about 10 Eurasian Teal and nearly as many intergrades during spring.

Holdover wintering Tufted Ducks remained at Montlake Fill, King through 13 Mar (K. Slettebak) and at Camas, Clark through 18 Mar (L. Topinka, m.ob.). Present since Jul 2009, the female King Eider (Washington's 20th) was last noted at O.S. on 19 Mar (MW). Formerly very rare inland during spring, Surf Scoter is now found annually Mar–May away from marine waters. Four inland Surfs were noted on the westside 12 Mar–3 Apr, while another at Reardan, Spokane 26 May+ (GF) was e. Washington's 3rd spring record since 2002.

Four White-winged Scoters off Wanapum S.P., Kittitas 11 Mar (SDs) add to just 11 prior seasonal records for e. Washington, though this species has now been detected in six of the past seven springs. Five Long-tailed Ducks together at Wanapum S.P. 11 Mar (SDs) was noteworthy for e. Washington, where this species is barely annual in spring; another near Pomeroy, Garfield 2 Apr provided a rare report away from the Columbia R. (GB).

A Pacific Loon, rare during spring in e. Washington, was at Vantage, Kittitas 13 May (M. Roening). The 23,000 Pacifics that streamed past Boiler Bay 24 Apr (PP) marked the peak of the coastal flight. Nine Yellow-billed Loons were about double the seasonal norm. These included one that was more than 5 km off Newport 5 May (GGI) and a late bird at Drayton Harbor, Whatcom 27 May (D. Abbott, M. Blanton, M. F. Mathis); a wintering eastside bird was last seen at Wenatchee, Chelan 16 Mar (G. Rohde). Up to 3 Red-necked Grebes were along the Columbia R. at Troutdale, Multnomah 6 Apr+ (B. Stites, E. Carlson, m.ob.); although hatch-year Red-necked Grebes are found annually away from salt water on the westside, spring reports are less than annual. An unremarkable 2 Clark's Grebes were detected in w. Washington 1 Mar–7 Apr.

Off Newport, Oregon, through the end of Mar, "sea surface temperature and deep water temperatures on the Continental Shelf were among the coldest values since the first collected records in 1997" (R. Runcie, <http://pacoos.org/QuarterlyUpdate_Climatic/JanFebMar12.pdf>). Although sea surface temperatures trended upward later in the spring, the season remained cooler than average. This season's offshore coverage was better than usual, with reports from a NOAA research cruise in early Mar, four cruise ships, five land-based day trips, and several incidental sightings from other research and fishing trips.

Seven Laysan Albatross, 3 off Washington and 4 off Oregon, was half of the 2011 total but still represented an above-average spring. Sightings of Short-tailed Albatrosses, now annual in the Region, included an ad/subad. observed from a cruise ship 90 km w. of Cape Lookout, Tillamook 13 May (K. Aanerud) and a juv. seen at Willapa Canyon, Pacific 4 (K. Lane) & 15 May (M. Dragiewicz), probably the same individual each time. Northern Fulmars were remarkably scarce, with one bird 21 Apr (BL) representing the lone encounter during two Westport trips. Cruise ship forays once again accounted for all of the season's Murphy's Petrels. This year's haul included 2 in Curry, 3 in Coos, one in Lane, and one in Lincoln 17 Apr (RM, BW, PEL). A single Murphy's was 77 km sw. of La Push, Clallam 11 May (PEL).

Four Mottled Petrels were in U.S. waters 72–80 km offshore over Nitinat Canyon, Clallam 3 Apr, and 3 were 43–54 km offshore over Astoria Canyon, Pacific 5 Apr (ph. RM, SMi). A Cook's Petrel was 45 km off Cape Blanco, Curry 17 Apr (B. Carlson, PEL, RM, BW, DW). There are only a few accepted reports of this species in Oregon. A Short-tailed Shearwater, very rare in inland marine waters, flew past Bainbridge I., Kitsap 10 Mar (J. Acker); most such records have been Nov–Jan. A dozen Short-taileds were still off Westport 21 Apr (BL, BT), and one was off La Push 11 May (PEL). Nine Manx Shearwaters 5 Mar–20 May approximates the recent seasonal average; all 5 Washington birds were offshore, while all 4 Oregon's reports came from shore at Boiler Bay 7–10 May (PP). An Ashy Storm-Petrel reported from a cruise ship off Oregon 14 May (JG, OS) adds to several other cruise ship reports from that state in recent years, though only two have been accepted by the Oregon B.R.C. Most reports involve birds that were seen either briefly or at distances where they could not be photographed.

With the recent establishment of the westside's first breeding colony—at Miller Sands, Clatsop—American White Pelicans now appear annually along the lower Columbia R. in sw. Washington, where formerly rare; this season's high count was 32 at Grays Bay, Wahkiakum 6 May (R. Taylor). This species remains rare n. of sw. Washington; 30+ were noted from eight locations, with 4 at Skagit W.M.A., Skagit 19 May being the most northerly (D. Abbott). The northward push of Brown Pelicans into the Region, which formerly did not occur until mid-summer, now commences in Apr/May; 700 Brown Pelicans at Westport, Grays Harbor 5 May (DW) likely set a new spring record for Washington. In light of these numbers, it is perhaps surprising that no Brown Pelicans were noted in the P.T. or in the Strait of Juan de Fuca for the 2nd consecutive spring. Once again, Great Egrets were noted at their only known w. Washington breeding location at Kalama, Cowlitz, with 5 seen on nests 14 Apr (R. Koppendrayner). Egrets were also maintaining at least one nest at the newly discovered colony at Scappoose, Columbia (B. Pierce); prior to 2008, Great Egrets had not nested along the lower Columbia River. An apparent Great Egret x Great Blue Heron hybrid was at Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima 6–23 May (†M. Bartels); there are no previous records of this cross in the Region, and we have found only one other reference to a bird suggestive of this cross (<<http://home.earthlink.net/~pomarine/id22.html>>). Given the Region's great distance



Two White-rumped Sandpipers stopped off at Reardan, Lincoln County, Washington 29–30 (here 29) May 2012, providing the state's fifth record of the species. Photograph by Jon Isacoff.

from the range of Great White Heron, it seems highly unlikely that this is a Würdemann's Heron (Great Blue x Great White cross). A Glossy Ibis at Malheur 21 May (†TR) adds to four previous records for Oregon; this species, which is expanding its range, was detected at Malheur each spring 2006–2009 and is likely now annual there, even though detection requires sifting through the tens of thousands White-faced Ibis breeding on and around the refuge. White-faced Ibis have always shown an irruptive pattern in the Region, but a decided uptick in the number of spring overshoots over the past 15 years has coincided with dramatic increases in the Region's breeding population. Prior to 1980, just a few hundred pairs bred at Malheur, but there are now 20,000+ pairs nesting there; large colonies have become established in Klamath and Lake as well. Despite this, none were seen during the past two springs and summers in e. Washington, but this year, they showed well, with 41 birds at six locations 8–27 May. In w. Washington, singles visited Skagit W.M.A. 19 May (GB) and Spencer I., Snohomish 22 May (P. Booth). In Oregon, the only strays away from breeding areas were one at Bend 21 Apr (L. Rems) and 15 at F.R.R. 15 May (RR).

A Red-shouldered Hawk inhabited Ridgefield 5 Mar–2 May (SC, S. Thorp), and another was at Willow Grove, Cowlitz through 12 Mar (J. Jendro); this species is rare but annual in sw. Washington, where presumed breeding remains undocumented. On the westside, where formerly exceptionally rare at any season, Swainson's Hawks have been found each spring over the past decade. This season, 4 appeared in w. Washington 23 Apr–13 May, and a westside record 7 enlivened the Portland airport 28 May (CHa). A Ferruginous Hawk at Troutdale, Multnomah 4 Apr (JG) was the westside's first spring report since 2006. Five Gyrfalcons 1 Mar–18 Apr was on par with recent springs.

A Prairie Falcon at Troutdale 17 May (G. Canterbury) was late for the W.V., where this species winters but does not breed. Six westside Sandhill Cranes 21-24 May were late, as this species normally vacates the westside by the first week of May; singles at Cape Blanco 23 May (K. Andersson, L. Miller) and Coos Bay 24 May (F. Petock) were on Oregon's s. coast, where rare at any season.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Five Black-bellied Plovers, now found annually during spring in e. Washington, appeared at four locations 20 Apr–8 May. A Black-bellied at Roseburg 22 Apr (K. Phifer) was highly unusual for the Umpqua Valley, which is generally devoid of shorebird habitat. An American Golden-Plover was near Bridgeport, Douglas 27 May (MS); there are only six previous eastside records for northbound (Apr–Jun) birds. Five westside Pacific Golden-Plovers 19 Apr–13 May was a typical spring showing. A Snowy Plover at Dungeness Spit, Clallam 21-30 Apr (ph. D. Lambert) was only the 6th for the P.T., all but one of which has been since 2003; other than one Sep record, all previous records have been in May. Another Snowy at Ankeny 26 May (RG) was most unexpected, as there are very few W.V. records for this species. After a no-show last spring, Black-necked Stilts returned to w. Washington, including 10 at Sylva, Snohomish 23 Apr (MB), with one remaining there through 1 May (m.ob.) and one at Seattle 2 May (T. Brennan). This season's westside American Avocets were a single at Nisqually 26 May (D. Schurman, W. Wheeler, L. A. Skillen) and 2 at F.R.R. 15 May (RR); avocets are now annual in the Willamette Valley. A Wandering Tattler, rare at any time in the P.T., visited P.N.P. 23 May (VN); the last spring record for this species in the P.T. was in 2005. A rare westside Upland Sandpiper was on N.S.C.B. 25 May (KC, DL). Although Whimbrels are uncommon in the P.T. and annual farther s. in the W.V. in spring, this season's interior passage was exceptional. An impressive 500+ gathered at Camano I., Island 15 May (MW) and 67—including a flock of 50 at Molalla, Clackamas 18 May (J. Jones)—were noted from six W.V. locations 11-21 May. Long-billed Curlews, rare on the westside away from the outer coast, included singles at Ridgefield 18 Apr (SC), Ankeny 29 Apr (DI), and Stanwood, Snohomish 11 May (MW). Two Hudsonian Godwits graced Columbia N.W.R., Grant 4 May (G. Warrick); there are only about 14 previous records of northbound birds in the Region, fairly evenly split between westside and eastside. Marbled Godwits, rare away from the outer coast in w. Washington, showed well, with 6 noted at four locations 10 Apr–4 May. In e. Washington, where equally

rare, northbound migrants visited Scooteney Res., Franklin 24 Apr (K. Black), W.W.R.D. 12 May (M&MLD), Stratford L., Grant 12 May (TL), and Swallows Park, Asotin 18 May (K. Carlson). A Red Knot, not annual in the P.T. during spring, was at Crockett L., Island 22 May (MB). Though uncommon as fall migrants in e. Washington, Sanderlings are not quite annual during spring, so one at W.W.R.D. 26 May (M&MLD) was noteworthy. Semipalmated Sandpipers are rare throughout Washington during spring, especially so on the outer coast. Five in w. Washington included 2 on the outer coast at Neah Bay, Clallam 21 May (N. Ball). In e. Washington, 2 were at Davenport, Lincoln 1 May (JI), and one visited Soap L., Grant 8 May (MY). Washington as a whole averages about 3 per spring. Two White-rumped Sandpipers at Reardan, Spokane 29-30 May (ph. JI) were the 4th and 5th for Washington, where all detections have occurred late May–early Jul. A Baird's Sandpiper was at Soap L., Grant 12 May (MY), and 4 visited Reardan 19 May (JI); this species is rare but annual during spring in e. Washington. In Washington, where fewer than 10 is a typical seasonal tally, Pectoral Sandpipers staged an exceptional invasion; 228 were tallied on the westside 14-22 May, including a maximum of 30 at Coupeville, Island 22 May (MB, MH). Thirty-seven more Pectorals were noted in e. Washington, with a maximum of 22 at Reardan 22 May (JI). Strangely, only 2 Pectorals were reported from Oregon. An alternate-plumaged ad. Curlew Sandpiper, Washington's 11th, brightened Ocean City, Grays Harbor 20 May (ph. CW, R. Furbush); there are two previous May records, with all others Jul–early Oct. For the 8th straight spring, a northbound Ruff graced the Region; this year's bird was at Bottle Beach, Grays Harbor 17 May (R. Sullivan, K. Norton). A Wilson's Phalarope at N.S.C.B. 14 May (TR) was the only coastal report. Storm-driven Red Phalaropes appeared in modest numbers along the coasts of both states 12 Mar–1 Apr; 500 Reds at N.S.C.B. 17 Mar (TR), 100 at Floras L., Curry the same day, and 70 at N.S.C.B. 22 May (TR) were the only counts of more than 14 birds. During the northbound passage in May, single Red Phalaropes strayed inland to the Philomath sewage ponds on 3 & 21 May (WDR).

An ad. Red-legged Kittiwake 69 km off Clallam 3 Mar (ph. RM, SMi) was Washington's 9th and the 17th for the Region. An early Sabine's Gull was off Jefferson 19 Mar (M. Dragiewicz); records before mid-Apr are few. Six Sabine's at Eliza I., San Juan 16 May (K. Lane) were highly unusual in the P.T. during spring, so a group of 58 at P.N.P. 25 May (BW, VN) was truly astounding; the only higher tally

for inland w. Washington was of 135 at P.S.B. on 3 Jun 2010. The only Sabine's away from marine waters was at Philomath, Benton 3 May (WDR). Single Franklin's Gulls, which are not quite annual on the westside in spring, strayed to Boiler Bay 14 May (PP), Admiralty Inlet, Jefferson/Kitsap 5-26 May (D. Johnson, VN), and Dungeness Bay, Clallam 21-25 May (M. Salvadalena). In e. Washington, a Franklin's Gull at Clarkston 13-24 Mar was well over six weeks early and provided Washington's first Mar record (ph. MB). Three at the same locale 12 Apr (ph. C. Temple) represented just the 3rd Apr record for Washington. Thereafter, Franklin's Gulls invaded e. Washington, with 65 detected May 12+; these included a Washington record 39 at W.W.R.D. 26 May (M&MLD). Heermann's Gulls rarely reach the Strait of Juan de Fuca or the P.T. before Jun, so singles at P.N.P. 6 May (VN), Port Angeles 8 May (M. Salvadalena), and Friday Harbor, San Juan 29 May (C. Goulet) were noteworthy. A Mew Gull visited Potholes Res., Grant 29 Apr (D. Stephens) providing only the 8th Apr–Jun record for e. Washington. A Herring Gull still at W.W.R.D. 27 May (RS, CW) was about three weeks tardy. Washington's 17th Iceland Gull, a first-cycle bird that wintered near Clarkston, Asotin, remained through 13 Mar (C. Riddell); an ad. Iceland was in this area during spring 2011. A Glaucous-winged Gull at Malheur 30 Mar (WH) provided one of just a few Harney records. Although only about half the recent spring average, 13 Glaucous Gulls was on par with the long-term seasonal norm. The latest, a first-cycle bird at Malheur 18-25 May (ph. S. Norris, J. Meredith), was truly exceptional; Glaucous is rarely found away from the Columbia R. on Oregon's eastside.

Three Black Terns, rare during spring in w. Washington, visited Ridgefield 13 May (S. Carpenter); singles at Fernhill Wetlands 12 May (M. French) and Tualatin N.W.R. 19 May (D. Leal) were the only W.V. birds away from the breeding colony at F.R.R. Three South Polar Skuas seen from a cruise ship 14 May off Oregon (JG, OS) made a good spring tally. Parasitic Jaegers, very rare during spring in the P.T., included one at P.N.P. 23 May (VN) and 2 at Semiahmoo, Whatcom 27 May (P. Wegener). Ten ad. Long-tailed Jaegers seen from a cruise ship off the cen. Oregon coast 17 Apr (PEL, RM, BW) appear to be the Region's earliest sightings by two days. Pairs of Marbled Murrelets 50 km and 56 km off Cape Alava, Clallam 3 Mar (RM, SMi) were unexpected, as this species is rarely encountered more than a few km from shore. A Crested Auklet reported from a cruise ship 14 May off Oregon (JG, OS) would be the Region's first if accepted. Horned Puffins showed well, perhaps related to the bounty of beached birds.

SA Since spring 2006, increasing offshore coverage during early spring has proven that Parakeet Auklets are regular visitors from at least late Mar through early May. Even in the context of new paradigm, the spring of 2012 was astounding, with **875+** found, exceeding the cumulative total of all prior sightings of this species in the Region! This total includes tallies of **21 off Clallam, 358 off Grays Harbor, 438 off Pacific, and 33 off Tillamook** 3-6 Mar (RM, SMi). Additionally, 19 were off Westport 21 Apr (BL, BT, CW), and 2 were off La Push, *Clallam* 11 May (PEL). In Oregon waters, observers aboard a northbound cruise ship had 7 Parakeet Auklets off *Curry* and 4 more off *Coos* 17 Apr (JW et al.). The huge early Mar tallies suggest that perhaps significant numbers of this species winter in the Region's deeper offshore waters, but their presence and numbers closer to shore during the Apr Westport foray may be attributable to this season's colder-than-normal ocean temperatures.

One was found drifting in the surf at Grayland, *Gray Harbor* 3 Mar (ph. Peter Carr); the Region averages about one inshore bird per spring. Three offshore singles were seen in Oregon waters 17 Apr–5 May. Tufted Puffins are rarely reported before Apr, so one over Nitinat Canyon, *Clallam* 3 Mar and 7 over Willapa Canyon, *Pacific* 5 Mar (RM, SMi) were notable.

Snowy Owls were holdovers from the winter season; these included groups of 3 at Stanwood, *Snohomish* through 31 Mar (m.ob.) and 5 at O.S. through 8 Apr (m.ob.). One Snowy persisted through the spring season and most of the summer at Zumwalt Prairie, *Wallowa* (fide DT). The peak count for northbound Black Swifts along the Oregon coast was 36 at N.S.C.B. 18 May (KC, DL). *Coos's* 2nd White-throated Swift was near Bethel Mt. 13 May (TR); this species is less than annual w. of the Cascades. A Black-chinned Hummingbird graced Mt. Pleasant, *Skamania* 9 May (WC); most w. Washington records of this species are from *Skamania*. A displaying Anna's Hummingbird was at Yakima 3 Mar (SDs); Anna's are increasingly reported during winter in e. Washington, but breeding birds are not known beyond *Klickitat*. Twenty westside Calliope Hummingbirds 27 Apr–12 May was a drop-off from recent spring tallies, and the earliest arrivals were two or three weeks later than most years; 9 were noted in w. Washington, where prior to 2007 this species was considered less than annual. An astound-

ing swarm of 200 Calliopes at feeders near Keller, *Ferry* 20 May (R. Raebell) far surpasses any count for the Region. A male Broad-tailed Hummingbird enlivened Fields, *Harney* 29 May (AC).

Lewis's Woodpeckers had re-established themselves as annual spring visitors to w. Washington over the past decade but did not appear this year. Only 2 were noted from w. Oregon, with one at Hillsboro, *Washington* 3 May (M. Wilkinson) and another at Gresham, *Multnomah* 13 May (AH, CH, ES). The wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at E. E. Wilson W.M.A., *Benton* was last seen 22 Mar (J. Geier). A Red-naped Sapsucker at Seattle 29-30 Apr (ph. D. Paulson) furnished the only w. Washington report; "pure" individuals of this species remain quite rare in the w. Washington lowlands.

PASSERINES

Olive-sided Flycatchers showed up early at several locations 17-21 Apr, with one at Brookings 17 Apr (D. Munson) tying Oregon's record early date. Prior to 2007, Least Flycatchers were considered very rare in w. Washington. Since then, several per year have been the norm, with most detections coming late May–Jun. This spring, one Least visited Corkindale, *Skagit* 22 May+ (RK), and *Kitsap's* first graced Bainbridge I. 25 May (ph. BW). Only 2 Least Flycatchers were noted in e. Washington, one near College Place, *Walla Walla* 26 May (M&MLD), the other at Cheney, *Spokane* 28 May (GF). Oregon's only Least was near Sisters, *Deschutes* 22 May (PL). Single Gray Flycatchers were at Corkindale, *Skagit* 1-2 (RM) & 12 May (RM, T. Manns, J. Day). There are only about 15 records for Gray Flycatcher in w. Washington. Once again, Dusky Flycatchers showed well in w. Washington, with 30+ detections 23 Apr+; at least 22 were in the upper *Skagit R.* valley, *Skagit/Whatcom*, including 6 at Newhalem, *Whatcom* 2 May (RM, BW). A Dusky at Puyallup, *Pierce* 23 Apr (CW) was w. Washington's earliest by about a week. Prior to 2006, Dusky Flycatchers were not found annually in w. Washington's lowlands. A Dusky at Astoria 13 May (MP) was on Oregon's outer coast, where less than annual. This spring's only w. Washington reports of Black Phoebe involved two pairs at Ridgefield 25 Apr+ (fide RH); this locale has provided Washington's only breeding records. While only 7 westside Say's Phoebe were reported in Oregon, some 38 flooded into w.

Washington 13 Mar–13 May; the previous seasonal record was where 24, in 2008. Significant among these were 10 Say's at five locations in ne. *Skagit* 4 Apr (RM), a coastal single at Tatoosh I. 8-10 Apr (R. Paine, T. Wootton), and the latest at Stanwood, *Snohomish* 13 May (C. Riddell), which was about a month outside the expected Mar–Apr window for this annual flight. Prior to 2004, w. Washington averaged a mere 2 Say's per spring. Washington's 5th **Vermilion Flycatcher**, which wintered at Ridgefield, remained through 9 Mar (S. Hagen). A **Tropical Kingbird** at Newport 4 Mar (WH) was a seasonal first; virtually all of the Region's records for this species come Oct–Nov, with a handful of winter reports. The westside passage of Western Kingbird was highlighted by daily maxima of 11 at the Portland airport 23 Apr (CHa) and 9 at Corkindale 17 May (RM, RK); coastal birds, now rare but annual in Washington, included one at Johns R., *Grays Harbor* 6 May (R. Lawson), one at Hobuck Beach 13-28 May (NB), and 3 at Wa'tach R., *Clallam* 22 May (RM).

Eight westside Loggerhead Shrikes—4 in each state—28 Mar+ was more than double the seasonal norm; one discovered 1 Apr at Troutdale (DI, SF) persisted there into Jun. The season's only Blue Jays were at Yakima 29 Mar–3 May (K. Lucas) and Hagg Lake, *Washington* 19 May (AF). Six Western Scrub-Jays at Yakima 29 Mar (K. Lucas) were evidence of the modest population now established in the Yakima Valley. A Black-billed Magpie visited Newhalem, *Whatcom* 17-18 Apr (fide RM); this species is normally very rare in w. Washington, but one or 2 wandering birds have been noted in most reporting periods over the past three years. A Bank Swallow at Tillamook 28 May (W. Gross) was an unusual find on the n.



An unprecedented eight Sage Thrashers were detected in western Washington in spring 2012, including this one, which provided a Kitsap County first on 14 May. Photograph by Brad Waggoner.

Oregon coast, where less than annual. A pair of Oak Titmice at Winston, Douglas 18 May (L. Mountainspring) represents the northernmost outpost for this species. The 2 wintering Rock Wrens on Whidbey I., Island persisted through 28 Mar (C. Corin, RM). Migrant Rock Wrens stray into the n. Oregon Coast Range in most springs; this season's birds were on Marys Peak, Benton 14 May (H. Herlyn) and on Saddle Mt. 30 May (MP). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher near Monmouth, Polk 15 May (WDR) was in the W.V., where there are fewer than 10 records. Of the staggering 218 Mountain Bluebirds found in w. Washington 8 Mar–6 May, 185 were in the upper Skagit R. valley, Skagit. Only now is this rich migration corridor receiving extensive coverage. Also of note were 9 coastal Mountain Bluebirds at three coastal locations 25 Mar–6 May. Given the numbers in w. Washington, it is perhaps surprising that 2 Mountain Bluebirds at Gresham 30 Mar (AH, CH) were the only ones detected in w. Oregon. Reports of migrant Townsend's Solitaires w. of the Cascades in Washington were few this spring, though a coastal bird at Leadbetter Pt., Pacific 27 Apr was of note (E. Barber, RM). A Gray Catbird was at Corkindale, Skagit 17–18 May (RM, RK); though very rare in w. Washington, catbirds probably bred at this location during 2010. Eleven Northern Mockingbirds 6 Apr+ was supra-normal, with all but 2 found w. of the Cascades; this marks a reversal of last spring's pattern, when all but one of 6 mockingbirds were on the eastside. Ten westside Sage Thrashers 3 Apr–22 May qualifies as an invasion. An astonishing 8 were in w. Washington, where this species is not recorded annually; a coastal bird at Hobuck Beach, Clallam 6 May (NB) and Kitsap's first, at Bainbridge I. 14 May (BW), were particularly noteworthy. A Brown Thrasher at Langlois 24–26 May (KA) was Curry's 2nd; this species is nearly annual in Oregon, with reports from all seasons. A Bohemian Waxwing, rare in w. Washington, remained at Marymoor through 10 Apr (MH).

An Ovenbird at Malheur 22 May (TR) was the Region's first spring-season detection since 2005; most reports of northbound birds come during Jun. As is typical, 4 of the season's 6 Black-and-white Warblers visited Harney oases 21–29 May; singles at Diablo, Whatcom 25 May (TRK) and Ephrata, Grant 29 May (fMY) were in Washington, which averages about one per year. This season's Tennessee Warblers were singles at Bend 20 May (T. Kutzen) and Malheur 27 May (AC). A pair of American Redstarts near Bellingham 26–27 May (K. Lane) suggests local breeding, as spring migrants are very rare; there are two known breeding locales for this species in w. Washington. Single migrant redstarts passed through Malheur 26 May

(AC) and Fields 28 May (AC). Oregon's 15th Cape May Warbler was at Frenchglen, Harney 12 May (ph. R. Vetter). Single Northern Parulas at Malheur 25 & 30 May (AC) represented a typical spring showing in se. Oregon. Harney also yielded the season's only Chestnut-sided Warbler: a male enlivened Fields 28 May (T. Shelmerdine). A Blackpoll Warbler at Bend 18 May (C. & M. Miller) marks the 6th consecutive spring that a northbound bird has been detected on the eastside; historically, the bulk of the Region's reports have involved southbound young birds. The first northbound Black-throated Blue Warbler since 2009 was s. of Fields along Cottonwood Cr. 26 May (B. Archer). An impressive flight of 3760 Yellow-rumped Warblers was noted at Bainbridge I., Kitsap 23 Apr May (BW); counts of 3000+ for this species in Kitsap in the cen. P.T. have occurred in three consecutive springs. A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Bandon 9 Mar (KS) was fully three weeks early and had perhaps wintered locally. Black-throated Grays are not often found e. of the Columbia R. in e. Washington during spring, so singles at Sun Lakes S.P., Grant 12 May (TL) and Bennington L., Walla Walla 29 May (MLD) were noteworthy. A Hermit Warbler at Bandon 9 Mar (KS) had almost certainly wintered nearby, as it was five weeks ahead of the earliest northbound arrivals. A migrant near Port Gamble, Kitsap 30 May (M. O'Brien) was also significant, as this species is quite rare in the P.T., just a short distance n. of its breeding range. The Yellow-breasted Chat that wintered at Coos Bay was last seen 28 Apr (B. Fields). Two chats in w. Washington 8 May+ is consistent with recent springs, yielding further evidence of this species' ongoing comeback in w. Washington.

The only westside American Tree Sparrow, which wintered at Floras L., Curry, disappeared after 3 Mar (KA, TR). A Clay-colored Sparrow at Bainbridge I., Kitsap 19 May (ph. BW) made just the 6th record in the Mar–May window for w. Washington, though this species has now been detected there in three of the past four spring seasons. Brewer's Sparrows strayed to the westside in impressive numbers, with 9 widely scattered birds 9 Apr–20 May; 2 per spring w. of the Cascades has been the recent norm. Single Brewer's at Heceta Head, Lane 12 May (D. Petey) and at Hobuck Beach, Clallam 20 May (ph. NB) were on the coast, where still less than annual Mar–May. Vesper Sparrows are not often found away from their limited breeding outposts in w. Washington, but it appears that the Skagit R. valley may be a regular migration corridor for this species; 30 detected there 5 Apr–25 May was astounding. At least 2 territorial Vespers were in the Langlois area 21 Apr+ (PS, TR); these birds



On the heels of Washington's first ever last spring, another Lawrence's Goldfinch appeared, this one at Keyport, Kitsap County 20–21 (here 21) May 2012, providing the fifth record for the Oregon and Washington region. Photograph by Brad Waggoner.

likely represent the Region's only coastal breeders. Stray Lark Sparrows at Neah Bay, Clallam 21 May (fide RM) and at Skagit W.M.A. 22–24 May (ph. MW) were in w. Washington, where there are fewer than 20 spring records. Another at McKenzie Bridge, Lane (M. Nikas) was in the Willamette R. watershed, which averages about one per spring. Black-throated Sparrows staged a record invasion w. of Cascades; 17 noted 9–31 May included pairs of birds at Troutdale 10–12 May (T. Anderson, m.ob.) and s. of Ashland, Jackson 28 May (P. Trail). By May 27, 2 Black-throated Sparrows had returned to Vantage (S. Giles), a Washington site where they are now nearly annual during the breeding season. A Sage Sparrow at Clarkston, Asotin 3 Mar (JI) in far se. Washington was a surprise away from this species' shrub-steppe breeding habitat. Western Washington's 10th Sage Sparrow visited Ridgefield 11 Apr (RH); most records are from Feb–Mar. Two Grasshopper Sparrows appeared at coastal locations; one was at Newport 20 May (R. Wing), and the other at Neah Bay 22–23 May (RM) made just the 3rd spring record (8th overall) for w. Washington. A Slate-colored Fox Sparrow visited Newhalem, Whatcom 23 Apr (RM); birds of this subspecies group are rarely encountered on the westside. In the wake of slight rebound during the preceding winter season, 5 Harris's Sparrows—including 3 long-staying individuals—were noted 1 Mar–22 Apr; surprisingly, none were detected in Washington. A dark-lored White-crowned Sparrow (*Z. l. leucophrys* or *oriantha*) visited Diablo, Whatcom 23 Apr (RM). Only a handful of records of such birds exists for w. Washington. Rare for far e. Washington, single

Golden-crowned Sparrows were at Davenport, *Lincoln* 1-14 May (JI) and Rock L., *Whitman* 12 May (M. Crawford). A Golden-crowned x White-crowned Sparrow hybrid was again detected, with one at Seattle 25 Apr (J. Gunn).

A male Summer Tanager at Lakeview, *Lake* 17 May (D. Wenzel) was the 2nd in as many springs in Oregon, after several years with no Mar-May reports from the Region. Lingering overwintering Western Tanagers included one at Seattle through 3 Mar (T. Catford) and another at Rainier Beach, *King* through 23 Mar (E. Smith). Seven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks 28 Apr+ was subpar by recent standards. Two Black-headed Grosbeaks at Issaquah, *King* 7 Apr were about two weeks early (L. Schwitters). A Lazuli Bunting at Naselle, *Pacific* 22 May (A. Richards) was very rare for coastal Washington. This season's Indigo Buntings brightened Fort Klamath, *Klamath* 16 May (K. Bratcher) and La Grande, *Union* 17 May (TB). Possibly a returning bird from 2010, an **Indigo Bunting** x **Lazuli Bunting** hybrid was near Cougar, *Cowlitz* (R. Koppendrayner); there are only three prior records for Washington. A female **Painted Bunting** that appeared at a Bandon feeder 1 Mar persisted there for nearly six weeks (ph. M. Ayers); this is the 5th for Oregon.

A Bobolink near Stanwood, *Snohomish* 19-20 May (G. & S. Aslanian) was only about the 3rd spring bird over the past decade in w. Washington. Six Tricolored Blackbirds at College Place, *Walla Walla* 20 May (M&MLD) were away from known breeding colonies in *Whitman* and *Grant*; this species first appeared in the mid-Columbia Basin in 2003. This season's Common Grackle dropped in at Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge 14 May

(K. Lopez); this species is annual in se. Oregon during May and Jun. All but 2 of Oregon's 9 Great-tailed Grackles were in se. Oregon; west-side singles visited Medford 17 May (J. Tufts) and Cape Blanco 18 May (T. J. Wahl). Hooded Orioles have been annual in se. Oregon of late; this season's bird graced Klamath Falls 10 May (C. Biénz). Three Baltimore Orioles 14-29 May were all in *Harney*.

Pine Grosbeaks occasionally wander to west-side lowlands during winter season irruptions, but this spring, no fewer than 11 visited lowland sites in w. Washington 2 Apr-23 May; 9 at Marblemount, *Skagit* 7 Apr (RK, PW) highlighted these reports. Similarly, 5 Cassin's Finches strayed to Sauk Valley, *Skagit* 4 Apr (RM), and *Kitsap*'s first was detected at Bainbridge I. 27 Apr (ph. BW). Twenty White-winged Crossbills, holdovers from the winter flight, were still at Tumalo Falls, *Deschutes* 1 Mar (PL); these birds were in Oregon's cen. Cascades, where not annual. The latest Common Redpolls from the winter irruption were singles at Seattle 4 Apr (ph. J. Lusk) and College Place, *Walla Walla* 11 Apr (M&MLD). Additionally, a well-described **Hoary Redpoll** lingered at Anatone, *Asotin* through 6 Mar (†G. Sheridan, JI); this redpoll irruption resulted in six reports of Hoaries to the W.B.R.C., but it should be noted that there are only 15 accepted records for Washington. Hard on the heels of Washington's first last spring, another **Lawrence's Goldfinch** appeared at Keyport, *Kitsap* 20-21 May (ph. S. & S. Klipper). Additional Lawrence's at Klamath Falls 12 Apr (M. Sargent) and Langlois, *Curry* 25 May (KA) add to seven antecedent records for Oregon. Lesser Goldfinches continue to explode statewide in Washington. This spring,

11 were noted at eight w. Washington locations away from *Clark* 1 Apr-30 May, with the northernmost at Bellingham 8 Apr (ph. MB). Three were back at Puyallup, *Pierce* 30 May (MB); we have just learned that Lesser Goldfinches nested successfully there in 2011, establishing the Region's northernmost breeding record.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Gary Bletsch, **Bob Boekelheide** (*Clallam*), Trent Bray, Marv Breece, Wilson Cady, Scott Carpenter, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Scott Downes, Greg Falco, Shawneen Finnegan, Bob Flores, Roy Gerig, Jeff Gilligan, **Greg Gillson** (Washington, thebirdguide pelagics), Denny Grandstrand, Carole Hallett, Adrian Hinkle, Christopher Hinkle, Michael Hobbs, Randy Hill, Wayne Hoffman, Jonathan Isacoff, **Stuart Johnston** (*Hood River, Klickitat*), Randy Knapp, Bruce LaBar, Dave Lauten, Paul E. Lehman, Terry Little, Peter Low, **Harry Nehls** (Oregon), Vic Nelson, Tim O'Brien, **Mike Patterson** (*Clatsop*), Phil Pickering, Roger Robb, W. Douglas Robinson, **Tim Rodenkirk** (*Coos, Curry*), Keith Saylor, Em Scattaregia, Owen Schmidt, Ryan Shaw, Bill Shelmerdine, Meredith Spencer, Andy Stepniewski, **Dave Trochlell** (*Union, Wallowa*), Dan Waggoner, Michael Willison, Jay Withgott, **Charlie Wright** (Washington), Matt Yawney. ☺

David Irons, 2544 NW Marshall Street, Portland, Oregon 97210, (lisdiron@msn.com)

Brad Waggoner, 7865 Fletcher Bay Road NE, Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110, (wagtail@sounddsl.com)

Ryan Merrill, 1616 10th Street W, Kirkland, Washington 98033, (rjm284@gmail.com)

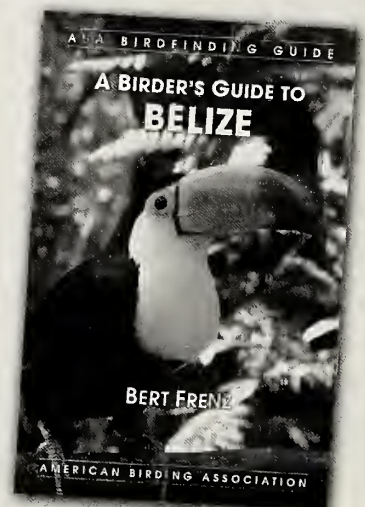
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Conditions continued drier than normal in the southern and eastern parts of the Region, with low snowpack and warm temperatures in the mountains. The northwest, however, experienced above-average precipitation in March and April. Persistent northwesterly winds were likely to blame for the paucity of eastern vagrants along the coast. Highlights included the first Northern Gannet for the Pacific Ocean south of the Bering Sea, the state's first spring Smith's Longspur, and reports of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and Gray Hawk.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.V. (Central Valley); C.R.P. (Cosumnes River Preserve, Sacramento); F.I. (Southeast Farallon I., San Francisco); H.R.S. (Hayward R.S., Alameda); PRBO (PRBO Conservation Science); S.F. (San Francisco, not State Forest). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are not published. Documentation of C.B.R.C. review species will be forwarded to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P. O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, California 91933.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck w. of Tipton, Tulare 15-27 May (ph. Robert Doster, m.ob.) was unbanded, wary, and capable of strong flight, but may well be deemed of questionable natural occurrence, as has been the case for the Region's previous records of this species. An ad. Snow Goose at Bridgeport Res. 30 May (PJM) was apparently the latest ever for Mono. A Brant was inside S.F. Bay in Benicia, Solano 24 Apr (RMu). Canada Geese again nested at F.I., but all three nests failed to produce young (PRBO).

A Dusky Canada Goose (subspecies *occidentalis*) continued through 28 May in Morgan Hill, Santa Clara (SCR). A Trumpeter Swan was at Graeagle, Plumas 20-22 Mar (ph. Sharon Adams, ph. CPD, ADE, SED); the 2 at Mono L., Mono last season remained through 20 Mar (KNN).

A male Eurasian Wigeon at the Ione W.T.P., Amador 19 Mar (FrT) presumably remained from last season. All but one of the 6 Eurasian Teal were in Humboldt 1 Mar-19 Apr. Five Tufted Ducks included the continuing male at L. Merritt, Alameda through 1 Apr (m.ob.), a male at Hornbrook, Siskiyou 23 Feb-4 Mar (JLx, FrO et al., ph. B&CY), a male (DN) and a female (Pam Davisson) at Shollenberger Park, Sonoma 1 Apr, and a male at L. Earl, Del Norte 8-21 Apr (ADB et al.). The ad. male White-winged Scoter at O'Neill Forebay, Merced continued from last season through 4 Mar (KVV, PJM), being joined by an ad. male Surf Scoter on this last date (PJM). Following last season's White-winged Scoter at Clifton Court Forebay, Contra Costa, 2 ad. males were there 17 Mar (JLx). Shasta's first Black Scoter, which spent a year at Kutras L., was last reported 28 Mar, at which point it had nearly completed its molt into ad. male plumage (Frank & Darliss Sanderson); another was found slightly inland inside S.F. Bay at the San Leandro Marina, Alameda 8 Mar (RJR). Twenty Long-tailed Ducks in seven counties included an inland male at O'Neill Forebay, Merced 19-21 Mar (Marie Stewart). Hooded Mergansers bred for the first time in Napa, where 5 young accompanied a female at L. Camille 9 May (LFI), and for the 2nd time in Sacramento, where a female was incubating eggs in a Wood Duck box at C.R.P. 22 Apr-17 May (Jim Dunn, Nancy Sage). A smattering of inland Red-breasted Mergansers in Merced, Yolo, Sacramento, Kings, and Mono included a late bird at Crowley L., Mono 12 May (KNN); a coastal bird along West Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz 28 May (SGe) and 2 at Navarro Beach S.P., Mendocino 31 May (REH) were likewise late.

A total of 5 Red-necked Grebes away from tidal water was higher than average. A juv. Short-tailed Albatross that had been banded in the Hatsunazaki colony on Torishima was 8 km

sw. of Ft. Bragg 20 May (TEa; ph., †RJK, m.ob.), marking the 2nd consecutive May in which the species has been recorded off Mendocino. The Pt. Arena Cove, Mendocino Laysan Albatross concluded its 19th winter at that location and was last reported 30 Mar (Beth Petit, m.ob.). A NOAA Fisheries Research Cruise recorded a Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrel 176 km sw. of Pt. Sur, Monterey 28 Apr (†G. Scott Mills); 7 Murphy's and 258 Cook's Petrels were also seen on that trip during the period 27-29 Apr, 55-288 km offshore, from Monterey n. to S.F. waters (G. Scott Mills). Repositioning cruises aboard commercial cruise ships also provided productive platforms for pelagic birding this season. On 9 May, 2 Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrels, one identified as a Hawaiian Petrel over Cabrillo Canyon in Monterey Bay, Santa Cruz and the other unidentifiable to species 48 km sw. of F.I. (†PEL et al.), were seen from a cruise ship. Off Humboldt, such cruises produced 3 Murphy's Petrels and a remarkable tally of 2200+ Leach's Storm-Petrels 17 Apr (PEL et al.), a Cook's Petrel 10 May (PEL et al.), and one Cook's and 3 Murphy's Petrels 16 May (Todd Hass et al.). The first Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel for Yolo and the C.V. was at the Yolo County Landfill 28 Apr (Marcel Holyoak, ph. m.ob.). Año Nuevo I., Santa Cruz hosted the Region's 13th Red-tailed Tropicbird 30 Apr (Jessie Beck, ph. Jonathan Felis). A dead Brown Booby at Ocean Beach, S.F. 6 Apr (ph. RS) continued our run of reports of this species, which has become regular over the past decade or so.

The only Least Bittern reported was near Alpaugh, Tulare 17-22 May (JLt, Dane Fagundes), at the same location where 2 were found Jun 2011. Cattle Egrets were found nesting in Fresno, Fresno, at Oso de Oro L. Park 14 Apr (several; Bruce Williford) and at Roeding Park 6 May (about 100 nests; JND); a pair nesting at L. Elizabeth, Fremont 10 May+ (Victoria Robinson, Stephanie Floyd, ph. Phoo Chan et al.) was the first to nest in Alameda since 2003. Coastal migrant Cattle Egrets were found in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara 25 Apr-8 May. White-faced Ibis were widely reported from 13 counties, including Trinity's 2nd record at Hay-

SA F.I. has produced a number of first state records over the years, but **Northern Gannet** was not on anyone's list of anticipated state firsts. So imagine the surprise of seabird biologist Pete Warzybok when he spotted an ad. flying around the island 25 Apr! Even more amazing, the bird remained in the vicinity through the period, clearing a space within a Common Murre colony, collecting some nesting material, and actively displaying as though advertising for a mate (the nearest potential mate likely being thousands of miles away). In addition to being seen by other biologists on F.I., a few fortunate birders on pelagic trips to the islands saw it as well. This occurrence follows a report of a Northern Gannet in the ne. Chukchi Sea near Barrow, Alaska 16-17 Aug 2010 (*North American Birds* 65: 141). It is speculated that increasing open water within the diminishing Arctic Ocean ice pack has encouraged a few gannets (or maybe just this one?) to wander westward from the Atlantic.

fork W.T.P. 8 May (3 birds; DEQ) and 3 in *Mariposa* along Mariposa Cr. below Mariposa Res. 2 May (†DLSu).

A pair of Ospreys nesting atop a crane at Pier 80 n. of Hunters Pt. 28 Mar+ (Noreen Weeden, Michael Perlmutter) provided S.F.'s 2nd confirmed breeding record. Nesting by Bald Eagles continues to occur more frequently in the Region, with the first confirmed breeding attempt ever for *Santa Cruz*, at Pinto L. through late Apr (m.ob.), and the first nesting attempt in *San Mateo* since 1915, at Lower Crystal Springs Res. 10 Mar–18 Apr (GCh, m.ob.). Four active nests were reported from *Santa Clara*. *Sonoma's* **Common Black-Hawk** was seen again at Laguna de Santa Rosa 11 Mar (ESH) and 9 May (ph. Stan Moore). An ad. Broad-winged Hawk was seen at Kirby Cove, *Marin* 7 May (Tim Baer, Herb Brandt). A juv. hawk identified as a **Gray Hawk** was seen at the same location 10 May (p.a.; †Tim Baer, Herb Brandt, Jim Hallisey). Coastal migrant Swainson's Hawks moved through in unprecedented numbers, with 14 or so reported throughout the period from S.F. alone and others found in *Sonoma*, *Marin*, *San Mateo*, *Santa Cruz*, and *Santa Clara* 10 Apr–7 May. A late Harlan's Hawk was reported from *Humboldt* along Titlow Hill Rd. 22 Apr (imm.; †KGR, Rachel Smith, Jamie Ross). In addition to the continuing *Del Norte* bird (ADB et al.), Crested Caracaras were reported from Pt. Sur, *Monterey* 30 Mar (ad.; ph. Stewart Janes) and se. of Davis 16–17 Apr (a C.V. first, in both *Yolo* and *Solano*; Mary Schiedt, ph., vt. m.ob.). Careful analysis of photographs suggests that these two reports refer to the same individual, a bird that was also recorded last season in *Los Angeles*, *Ventura*, and *San Luis Obispo*. A very tardy Merlin was seen at Watsonville, *Santa Cruz* 23 May (SGe et al.). An imm. Gyrfalcon hunting Cackling Geese at Fay Slough W.A., *Humboldt* 19 Mar (TKz) may have been the same bird reported in that vicinity last fall.

Yellow Rails were reported this season from near Eagle L., *Lassen* 19 May (LOR) and Willow L., *Plumas* 12 May (3 birds; SEd, ADE). A Black Rail at H.R.S. 4 Mar (RJR) was the only one reported away from known breeding areas. A Sandhill Crane returned to Bridgeport Res., *Mono* 21 May (KNN), and a pair was present 30 May (PJM). Other May reports from unexpected locations included pairs flying over *Humboldt* at Arcata 1 May (Annie Meyer, Jared Hughey) and Whitlow 28 May (John Gaffin), and a single bird along Beckwith Rd., *Stanislaus* 20 May (Ralph Baker et al.).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

The wintering Pacific Golden-Plover at Foster City, *San Mateo* was last seen 3 Apr (Stephen Long); others of note included one inland at Kettleman City, *Kings* 1 May (Brian Daniels)

and late migrants at Alviso, *Santa Clara* 19–21 May (MJM, ph. WGB et al.) and H.R.S. 29 May (Vicki Robinson). A Black Oystercatcher at Benicia 25 Apr–15 May (JCS, Roy Carlson, JIx, RMu) provided the 2nd record for *Solano*, following 2 birds at the same location last year 23 May–5 Jun. Shorebird migration in the Region was apparently protracted this season. *Mono* got an early start, with record-early arrivals of Whimbrel (28 Mar at Crowley L.; Steve Brad), Black-necked Stilt and Wilson's Phalarope (both 30 Mar at Mono L.; Forrest English), and Long-billed Curlew (31 Mar at Crowley L.; Susan Steele). On the other hand, movement through s. S.F. Bay trickled on through the end of May, with notable late records including 4 Red Knots, 44 Western Sandpipers, 6 Dunlin, and 3 Short-billed Dowitchers at Alviso, *Santa Clara* 26 May (MMR, MJM, RGJ) and remarkable numbers of lingering dowitchers in Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 29 May, with 40 Short-billed and 100+ Long-billed tallied (RSTh).

Twenty-five Solitary Sandpipers in 14 counties 9 Apr–9 May included singles 20 km se. of Pittville, *Lassen* 9 Apr (KAb) and at Bagby, *Mariposa* 3 May (†DLSu), both counties claiming few previous records. A Lesser Yellowlegs at Watsonville Slough, *Santa Cruz* 20 May (John Garrett) was notably late. Inland Whimbrels included *Mariposa's* first, a flock of 7 along White Rock Rd., observed flying in from *Merced* 18 Apr (†DLSu). Also notable were 65 at Ukiah W.T.P. 3 May (DAB), *Mendocino's* 3rd inland record following single birds at the same location 30 Apr (CEV) and 9 May 1998 (CEV, RJK). A single Long-billed Curlew at the same location 24 Mar (CEV, CWH, m.ob.) provided the first inland record for the county. Inland Ruddy Turnstones were at Corcoran, *Kings* 5 May (JLi) and near Alpaugh, *Tulare* 7 May (2 birds; Dane Fagundes). A Black Turnstone at Alviso 10 May (ph. Pete Dunten) provided only the 2nd spring record for *Santa Clara*. A Red Knot wandered far inland to Fresno W.T.P., *Fresno* 11 May (DS). Three Western Sandpipers along White Rock Rd. 18 Apr, with one still present 20 Apr (†DLSu), provided the 3rd record for *Mariposa* and the first in spring. Spring Baird's Sandpipers were found near Alpaugh, *Tulare* 15 May (Dane Fagundes) and at Humboldt Bay N.W.R., *Humboldt* 18 May (TKz, DCo); spring Pectoral Sandpipers were at Fresno W.T.P., *Fresno* 11 May (DS) and at Humboldt Bay N.W.R., *Humboldt* 18 May (TKz, DCo). Four Dunlin along White Rock Rd. 4 May (†DLSu) were the first for *Mariposa*. The Hude-man Slough, *Sonoma* Ruff continued through 22 Mar (ph. m.ob.); others were reported from C.R.P. 14–22 Apr (JTr, JRow, m.ob.), Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* 21 Apr–1 May (Kathy Moore, ph. Dan Brown, RAR, DFr, ph. ScC), *San Luis N.W.R.*, *Merced* 23 Apr (ph. Justin Bosler), and *Yolo*

Bypass W.A., *Yolo* 23 Apr (ph. SCH et al.). Two Short-billed Dowitchers with 7 Long-billeds at Bear Creek Pond 18–24 Apr (†DLSu, FrO, JIx) were the first Short-billeds for *Mariposa*; other notable inland records were from *Sierra Valley*, *Sierra* 23 Apr (2 birds; FrO) and 1 May (EP, Ted Beedy, Bill Yeates), and near Glenburn, *Shasta* 2 May (2 birds; KPa).

A count of 12,000 Black-legged Kittiwakes during a four-hour seawatch at Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 2 Mar (RSTh) was impressive. Sabine's Gulls are much rarer inland in spring than fall, so one at Kettleman City, *Kings* 22 Apr (JSy) was very unusual. The Laughing Gull at San Rafael, *Marin* continued through the period. Spring migrant Franklin's Gulls are more numerous inland in some years and in coastal areas in others. This season, 15 were reported from nine counties, with 6 in coastal areas and 9 inland. An Iceland Gull at the Davis W.T.P., *Yolo* 9–16 Mar (ph. TEa, ph. SCH et al.) provided only the 2nd state record of an ad. with completely white primary tips (and thus apparently nominate *glaucoides*). Mar reports of 3–4 imm. Iceland Gulls from *Yolo* and *San Joaquin* await C.B.R.C. review. A first-cycle Thayer's Gull at Fall River Mills 29 Mar (KAb, DEQ, JLD) was rare for e. *Shasta*. Single ad. Slaty-backed Gulls were at the Russian R. mouth, *Sonoma* 4 Mar (ph. TEa, JCS) and the *Yolo* County Landfill, *Yolo* 9 Mar (ph. TEa). Lesser Black-backed Gulls included an ad. at Folsom L., *Placer* 28 Mar–3 Apr (BWb, ph. GEw) and a first-cycle bird at the Davis W.T.P., *Yolo* 30 Mar (ph. TEa). At the inland Western Gull hotspot along the Delta Mendota Canal n. of Gaffery Rd., 100+ Westerns were present 24 Mar, with 10 still present 20 May providing the latest spring records for *San Joaquin* (both DGY). A Long-billed Murrelet off s. *Humboldt* Bay, *Humboldt* 22 Apr (ph. Jeff Jacobsen) was in an area where the species has been seen several times in recent years. Of 4 Scripps's/Guadalupe Murrelets off Noyo Harbor, *Mendocino* 20 May (TEa, m.ob.), 2 were positively identified as Scripps's. Except perhaps in very warm-water years, this species is more abundant in the Region than Guadalupe Murrelet. A repositioning cruise over deep water 64+ km off *Humboldt* and *Del Norte* 17 Apr revealed Parakeet Auklets in unprecedented numbers, with estimates of up to 200 individuals (†PEL, ph. B. J. Stacey, ph. Ryan Merrill et al.); a Horned Puffin was recorded that day as well. Two Parakeet Auklets were documented 64 km w. of Big Lagoon, *Humboldt* during a repositioning cruise 10 May (†PEL et al.).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

A dawn flight of 2465 Band-tailed Pigeons at New Brighton S.B. 21 Mar (DLSu) represented what may be the highest count ever for *Santa Cruz*. Two White-winged Doves flanked the

Region, with one at H.R.S. 5 Apr (RJR) and the other at Oasis Ranch, *Mono* 26 May (ADeM). Records of Common Ground-Dove continue to build in *Tulare*, with a bird 6 km sw. of the Porterville Municipal Airport 1 May (SDS). This species may be more widespread in that county than currently known but occurs in agricultural habitats, especially the interface between orchards and vineyards, which birders rarely visit. Burrowing Owls continue to exert predation pressure on the Ashy Storm-Petrel population at EI., with 52 dead Ashies attributed to as many as 5 owls 1 Mar–7 Apr (PRBO). A Barred Owl calling 5.5 km sw. of Fish Camp 23 May and another calling 7 km se. of Buck Meadows 24 May supplied the first records for *Mariposa* (v.r., †DLSu). The only other report was from Butterfly Valley, *Plumas* 29 Mar (CPD, JLD, DEQ), part of the Region where the species is known to be established. There are few credible records of Short-eared Owl for the w. slope of the Sierra Nevada, so one near Chicago Stump in Sequoia N.E., *Tulare* 21 May (†Elizabeth Aimes) was noteworthy. A Northern Saw-whet Owl atop Mt. Hamilton, *Santa Clara* 29 Apr (Keith Baker) added to a small number of records of such late migrants for the Diablo Range. Supplying an overdue first record for *El Dorado*, a Lesser Nighthawk flew along S. Shingle Rd. in Larobe 10 May (TEa, FS).

The discovery of a pair of Vaux's Swifts nesting in a chimney at Ocean Meadows, *Mendocino* 6 May (KHv, JHv) led the observers to question the soundness of the 1975 and 1976 records of nesting Chimney Swifts from that area. A White-throated Swift on a nest in the Hwy. 101 bridge over the S. Fork Eel R., *Mendocino* 23 May (ph. Jim McIntosh) garnered some attention—not because it was nesting in a bridge structure, which is a relatively widespread phenomenon in the Region, but because it was photographed. Nests of this species are typically situated deep in rock crevices (or sometime highway bridges and overpasses), so they rarely provide opportunities for photography. The 2 Rufous Hummingbirds that wintered at the U.C. Santa Cruz Arboretum, *Santa Cruz* apparently lingered there until 12 Apr (John Garrett). Also lingering from winter were 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers: one at Glen Oaks Motel in Big Sur, *Monterey* through 4 Mar (BTM) and another at Rose Memorial Park, Fort Bragg, *Mendocino* through 14 Mar (REH). The only out-of-range Red-naped Sapsucker was at Pt. Reyes N.S. 10 Mar (RSA).

A Least Flycatcher sang along Stampfli Lane in Indian Valley, *Plumas* 28 May+ (William Rocky), providing our only record this season. A Hammond's Flycatcher at Dechambeau Cr., *Mono* 11 Apr (KNN) appeared about five weeks ahead of the typical arrival date for this species in the Mono Basin. A peak count of 15 Gray

Flycatchers detected during surveys at the San Joaquin Experimental Range, *Madera* 24 Apr (*fide* JTz) was about average. Two Eastern Phoebe included a winter holdover along Stage Rd. in Pascadero, *San Mateo* through 3 Mar (GCh) and another at Tolay Lake R.P., *Sonoma* 19 Mar (ALaC). The male Vermilion Flycatcher reported last season from Gun Club Rd., *Merced* continued there through 3 Mar (KVV). *Sonoma's* 2nd Cassin's Kingbird was at Jenner Headlands 26 Apr (ph. PBC). One at Moore Creek Preserve 13 May (ph. John Garrett) was the first to be photographed in *Santa Cruz*. An Eastern Kingbird was at U.C. Santa Cruz, *Santa Cruz* 26 May (TN et al.). Another in the se. corner of *Santa Cruz* 30 May (DLSu) wandered northward across the Pajaro R. to furnish the first spring record for *Santa Clara* (*fide* WGB).

On 13 Apr, 2 Bell's Vireos sang at *Merced* N.W.R., *Merced*, about 20 km se. of where the species nested in 2011 (Elizabeth Aimes, Jay Wright). Almost expected given the relatively large number of records there, a Yellow-throated Vireo sang at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 26–27 May (ph. AMR, John Garrett, Larry & Carole Rose). Plumbeous Vireos included singles along Coyote Cr. in Milpitas 29–31 Mar (*Santa Clara's* first for spring; ph. WGB, DvWb) and along the Tuolumne R. in La Grange, *Stanislaus* 6 Apr (†SSa). The Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* produced our only Red-eyed Vireo 9 May (ph. RF). Last season's Blue Jay reportedly remained at Chico, *Butte* until 8 May (Tyler Fowler). Common Ravens apparently did not attempt to nest on EI. this year; a pair was present through early Mar, but both birds were gone by 2 May (PRBO). A raven pair putting the finishing touches on a nest in an electric transmission tower just s. of Hwy. 132 at the San Joaquin River N.W.R. 8 Mar (JND) represented the first breeding record for the valley floor in *Stanislaus*. A Bank Swallow at Lake McSwain R.A. 25 May (DLSu) provided one of few records of the species for *Mariposa*.

A gray-sided Chestnut-backed Chickadee at American Canyon 9 Mar (MBe) established the 2nd record for *Napa* of an apparent *Santa Cruz* Chestnut-backed Chickadee (*P. r. barlowi*), a subspecies that normally ranges n. only to S.E. Western Bluebirds reclaimed historic breeding areas near Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 14 Apr+ (DR, RC), where the species hadn't bred in 96 years; at Bison Paddock in Golden Gate Park, S.E. 5 May (Kimberly Jannarone), where the species hadn't nested "in ages"; and at Loma Prieta, *Santa Cruz* 26 May+ (PDB et al.), where the species hadn't bred in "several years." Out-of-range Townsend's Solitaires included singles along King Ridge Rd., *Sonoma* 11 Mar (Jeff Miller, LHg, BDP), on Wild Horse Ridge, *Napa* 20 Apr (MBe), and at Pt. Reyes N.S., *Marin* 31 May (Hugh Harvey, David Hutton).

THRASHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Oasis Ranch, *Mono* hosted our only Gray Catbird 26 May (ADeM), while out-of-range Sage Thrashers were widespread, with 14 birds in six counties from *Humboldt* to *Tulare*. A Brown Thrasher was in Eureka, *Humboldt* 25 Apr–7 May (Kathleen & David Juliano, m.ob.). A Phainopepla near Hopland 21 Apr (George Gibbs, m.ob.) provided *Mendocino* its first spring and 2nd overall record for the species. *Mendocino* was treated to a male Lapland Longspur in dapper alternate plumage at Mackerricher S.P. 6 May (DT), but the longspur news of the season was *Humboldt's* first and the Region's 5th Smith's Longspur (also an alternate-plumaged male) at Bear River Ridge 19–20 Apr (RHw, ph. KGR, ph. Alex Simon, ph. Jared Hughey, m.ob.). Our lone Ovenbird was on EI. 13 May (Pete Warzybok). The perennial Northern Waterthrush at Charleston Rd. marsh, *Santa Clara* persisted until 1 Apr (WGB et al.), and others were at Arcata, *Humboldt* 1–27 Apr (George Zyminsky et al.), at Watsonville Slough, *Santa Cruz* 2 May (SGe et al.), and near Oasis, *Mono* 27 May (PJM, ADeM). A singing male Blue-winged Warbler was a great find near Oasis, *Mono* 27 May (ph. PJM, ADeM; p.a.). Black-and-white Warblers included a winter holdover in Capitola, *Santa Cruz* through 15 Mar (DLSu), another in American Valley, *Plumas* 10 May (SEd, ADE), 2 along Alamitos Cr. Trail, *Santa Clara* 12 May (JPa, Diane & Bill Frinke et al.), and one on the n. spit of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 14–15 May (TKz, m.ob.). A Tennessee Warbler was near Oasis, *Mono* 27 May (PJM, ADeM), and a singing Kentucky Warbler was at Muir Beach, *Marin* 12 May (†Diana Humple). A singing male Hooded Warbler was near Sebastopol, *Marin* 13 May (LHg). Four American Redstarts were all late May finds, with one n. of McKinleyville, *Humboldt* 22 May (KI), 2 in *Mono* (Oasis Ranch 26 May and along Cottonwood Cr. near Oasis 27 May; both PJM, ADeM), and another along Soquel Cr., *Santa Cruz* 28 May (DLSu). A Cape May Warbler, a spring first for *Santa Cruz*, was enjoyed by many at Neary Lagoon 12–15 Apr (SGe, ph. m.ob.). Eleven Northern Parulas was well over our average of 8 and included *Alpine's* first in Markleeville 30 May (ph. TEa). A male Magnolia Warbler was singing along Stage Rd., *San Mateo* 27 May (LBt, RSTh). Nine Palm Warblers were all in coastal counties. The Yellow-throated Warbler that wintered at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* continued through 11 Mar (RSTh). A singing Canada Warbler in Lundy Canyon, *Mono* 24 May (KNN) was a great find, as nearly all of the Region's Canadas are found in fall.

Monterey's wintering Green-tailed Towhee in Pacific Grove continued until 8 Mar (BGE), and C.V. notables were at Upper Bidwell Park, *Butte* 16 Apr (Justin Bosler) and in Porterville, *Tulare* 28 Apr (ph. Priscilla Summers). Two Clay-col-

ored Sparrows were at different locations near Arcata, *Humboldt* this spring, one 19 Mar–10 Apr (RbF, m.ob.) and another 22 May (ph. TKz). A Brewer's Sparrow along Juan Cr. provided *Mendocino's* first documented record 22–23 Apr (†KHv, JHv, DT, CEV, GEC). This spring's invasion of Black-chinned and Black-throated Sparrows exceeded even 2007 in terms of numbers and geographic span. We received reports of 18 Black-chinneds and 24 Black-throateds from 11 and 9 counties, respectively. Nearly all these birds were first noted in late Apr or early May. These incursions into the Region seem to be correlated with winter/spring drought conditions in the desert breeding habitats normally used by these sparrows. Reports of Lark Bunting included a winter bird near Arcata, *Humboldt* remaining through 24 Mar (Annie Meyer et al.), 2 females along Davis Rd., *Stanislaus* 17 Mar (Ralph Baker), and an ad. male on Michigan Bar Rd., *Sacramento* 13 May (GEW). Among the 82 White-throated Sparrows recorded, one bird remained until 28 May in Eureka, *Humboldt* (COg). Other late-departing *Zonotrichia* included a White-crowned Sparrow at H.R.S. 22 May (RJR) and 2 Golden-crowned Sparrows 21 May at Trinidad, *Humboldt* (Jane Thatchell, Peter Headland). Wintering Harris's Sparrows continued through 3 Mar at C.R.P. (Maryann Steurer, JTr, m.ob.), 17 Mar at Cascade Ranch, *San Mateo* (JMD), 14 Apr at Davis, *Yolo* (Chris Dunford), and 22 Apr at Campbell, *San Clara* (Lisa Myers). Another Harris's Sparrow was present at Redding, *Shasta* 13–16 Apr (Brooke McDonald).

A Summer Tanager first found in Jan continued at Roeding Park, *Fresno* until 23 Mar (GWPO). Summer Tanagers were also at H.R.S. 8 May (RJR) and Mammoth Lakes, *Mono* 23

May (ph. Steve Brad). Twenty Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 15 Indigo Buntings were both numbers well above our average, with both species apparently becoming increasingly regular visitors. Bobolinks were at Crissy Field, *S.F.* 22 May (Steve Phillips, ph. Allen Hirsch, ph. m.ob.) and Oasis Ranch, *Mono* 26 May (PJM). A Common Grackle was photographed at Bob's Creek Ranch, *Lassen* 4–14 May (ph. KAb). Both our notable orioles were birds lingering from winter: an Orchard Oriole at Fort Mason, *S.F.* to 28 Mar (David Assman) and *Mendocino's* first Baltimore Oriole at Fort Bragg through 1 Apr (DT, REH).

Cited observers (county sub-regional editors in boldface): Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. **Ken Able** (*Lassen*), Alan D. Barron, Leonie Batkin, Dave A. Bengston, **Murray Berner** (*Napa*), **William G. Bousman** (*Santa Clara*), **Matthew Brady** (*Stanislaus*), Phil D. Brown, Scott Carey, Rita Carratello, George E. Chaniot, George Chrisman, Peter B. Colasanti, Daryl Coldren, **Chris Conard** (*Sacramento*), J. Michael Danzenbaker, **Rudy C. Darling** (*Nevada*), **Jeff N. Davis** (*Madera*), Al DeMartini, **Bruce E. Deuel** (n. C.V. counties), **Colin P. Dillingham** (*Plumas* and *Sierra*), Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, **Mark W. Eaton** (*San Francisco*), Amber D. Edwards, Scott Edwards, Bruce G. Elliott, Gil C. Ewing, Leslie Flint, Rick Fournier, **Rob Fowler** (*Humboldt*), Dea Freid, James H. Gain, **Steve Gerow** (*Santa Cruz*), **Steve A. Glover** (*Contra Costa*), Steve C. Hampton, Jim Havlena, Karen Havlena, Rob Hewitt, Richard E. Hubacek, Lisa Hug, Eugene S. Hunn, **John E. Hunter** (*Trinity*), Ken Irwin, Richard G. Jeffers, **Robert J. Keiffer** (*Mendocino*), Tony Kurz, Andy LaCasse, Paul E. Lehman, **Robin L.**

C. Leong (*Solano*), John Lockhart, Jim Lomax, Michael J. Mammoser, Blake T. Matheson, **Peter J. Metropulos** (*San Mateo*), Roger Muskat, Dan Nelson, **Kristie N. Nelson** (*Mono*), Todd Newberry, Chet Ogan, **Frances Oliver** (*San Joaquin*), Lew Oring, **Ed Pandolfino** (*Placer*), Kathy Parker, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Janna Pauser, **Gary W. Potter** (*Fresno*), David E. Quady, Harold M. Reeve, **Robert J. Richmond** (*Alameda*), Alex M. Rinkert, **Don Roberson** (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Kerry G. Ross, Stephen C. Rottenborn, James Rowth, **Ruth A. Rudesill** (*Sonoma*), Rusty Scalf, Salvatore Salerno, **Adam Searcy** (*Marin*), **Jeff Seay** (*Kings*), David Shuford (DS), Rich Stallcup, **John C. Sterling** (*Modoc*, *Alpine*, *Calaveras*, and *Yolo*), Fritz Steurer, **Tim Steurer** (*El Dorado* and *Amador*), **David L. Suddjian** (*Santa Cruz* and *Mariposa*), **Steven D. Summers** (*Tulare*), Ronald S. Thorn, **Jim Tietz** (FI.), Dorothy Tobkin, Francis Toldi, John Trochet, **Steve Umland** (*Tuolumne*), Chuck E. Vaughn, **Kent Van Vuren** (*Merced*), Cheryl Watson-Heinecken, Bruce Webb, Dave Weber, **Jerry R. White** (*Lake*), David G. Yee, **Bob & Carol Yutzy** (*Shasta*). ☉

Stephen C. Rottenborn, 983 University Avenue, Building D, Los Gatos, California 95032, (srottenborn@harveyecology.com)

- *Loons to Frigatebirds, Larids to Alcids*

Michael M. Rogers, 499 Novato Avenue, Sunnyvale, California 94086, (m.m.rogers@comcast.net)

- *Waterfowl to Quail, Herons to Shorebirds*

Jeff N. Davis, 11238 N. Via Trevisio Way, Fresno, California 93730, (jdavis@colibri-ecology.com)

- *Doves to Thrushes*

Ed Pandolfino, 1328 49th Street, Sacramento, California 95819, (erpfromca@aol.com)

- *Thrashers to Finches*

Southern California



Guy McCaskie
Kimball L. Garrett

The spring capped a drier-than-average winter rain season, although the month of April saw more rainfall than expected over much of the Region. Temperatures were at or above normal over most of the spring.

A somewhat lackluster migration of expected western migrants was punctuated by a handful of mega-rarities, including a Gyrfalcon in Inyo County in March that was probably the same individual seen earlier in the winter in Riverside County, the Region's second Common Redpoll (after this past winter's first), a Cory's Shearwater seen from shore in Orange County, and a Common Black-Hawk along the lower Colorado River. A southeastern influence was felt in an above-average showing of White-eyed Vireos and Northern Parulas.

Pinning down arrival dates of spring migrants and interpreting these dates in the context of shifting phenologies associated with accelerating climate change is fraught with difficulties in our Region (where few constant-effort site-based surveys are undertaken and where almost any long-distance migrant species can, and often will, overwinter). We haven't been providing spring arrival data for most species in our reports in recent years, but do so here for what most observers agreed was a rather "normal" year; the following arrival dates were forwarded by our county subregional editors: Olive-sided Flycatcher 10 Apr (Mission Trails, *San Diego*); Western Wood-Pewee 6 Apr (Cachuma Campground, *Santa Barbara*); Willow Flycatcher 5 May (El Centro, *Imperial*); Dusky

Flycatcher 7 Apr (Salt Creek, *Riverside*); Pacific-slope Flycatcher 3 Mar (San Diego) and 19 Mar (El Centro); Ash-throated Flycatcher 31 Mar (Mission Trails); Western Kingbird 5 Mar (Borrego Springs, *San Diego*), 6 Mar (Palo Verde, *Riverside*), 8 Mar (Cuyama Valley, *Santa Barbara*), and 12 Mar San Jacinto W.A., *Riverside*); Gray Vireo 25 Mar (Laguna Mts., *San Diego*); Cassin's Vireo 19 Mar (El Centro), 25 Mar (Tijuana River Valley, *San Diego*), and 27 Mar (Cayucos, *San Luis Obispo*); Warbling Vireo 4 Mar (Lompoc, *Santa Barbara*), 5 Mar (Cerro Alto, *San Luis Obispo*), and 9 Mar (San Clemente I., *Los Angeles*); Swainson's Thrush 11 Apr (Los Osos, *San Luis Obispo*); Nashville Warbler 30 Mar (*San Diego*); MacGillivray's Warbler 31 Mar (Templeton, *San Luis Obispo*); Yellow Warbler 23 Mar (San Clemente I.) and 3 Apr (Oso Flaco, *San Luis Obispo*); Townsend's Warbler 14 Apr (El Centro); Black-throated Gray Warbler 25 Mar (Jacumba, *San Diego*) and 31 Mar (San Luis Obispo); Wilson's Warbler 13 Mar (Tiarasanta, *San Diego*) and 15 Mar (El Centro); Yellow-breasted Chat 5 Apr (Tijuana River Valley); Black-chinned Sparrow 25 Mar (Laguna Mts.); Western Tanager 2 Apr (Bakersfield, *Kern*) and 6 Apr (*San Luis Obispo*); Black-headed Grosbeak 13 Mar (Lopez L., *San Luis Obispo*) and 24 Mar (Tierrasanta); Blue Grosbeak 10 Apr (Mission Trails) and 12 Apr (Blythe); Lazuli Bunting 28 Mar (Mission Trails); Hooded Oriole 23 Feb (Sherman Oaks, *Los Angeles*), 25 Feb (Balboa Park, *San Diego*), 10 Mar (Atascadero, *San Luis Obispo*), and 12 Mar (*Riverside*); Bullock's Oriole 14 Mar (La Jolla, *San Diego*), 17 Mar (L. Perris, *Riverside*), and 23 Mar (Heritage Ranch, *San Luis Obispo*); Bronzed Cowbird 5 Apr (Sunbeam L., *Imperial*).

Abbreviations: B.S. (Butterbreit Spring at the s. end of the Sierra Nevada above Cantil, e. *Kern*); C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. *Kern*); E.A.F.B. (Edwards A.F.B., se. *Kern*); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. *Kern*); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, *Riverside*); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, *Imperial*); S.J.W.A. (San Jacinto W.A., near Lakeview, *Riverside*); V.A.F.B. (Vandenberg A.F.B., nw. *Santa Barbara*); V.C.G.P. (Ventura County Game Preserve near Point Mugu N.A.S., *Ventura*). Museum collections abbreviated in the text are: LACM (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County). Because most rarities in s. California are seen by multiple observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and/or identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (C.B.R.C.) review list (see <www.california-birds.org>) is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CORMORANTS

Single Brant at Butterfield Ranch in e. *San Diego* 24 Apr (SES), State Line in e. *San Bernardino* 28-29 Apr (DK), and Owens L., *Inyo* 3 Jun (CBH, RCH) provided the only reports inland away from the Salton Sink, but 400 at N.E.S.S. 24 Apr (KR) was an exceptionally large flock for the Salton Sea. A Trumpeter Swan 2 km n. of the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, *Riverside* 15 Apr (MB) was known to have been raised in captivity. A continuing Harlequin Duck at Cayucos, *San Luis Obispo* through 31 May (TME) and up to 3 at Avila Beach, *San Luis Obispo* through 7 May (JaC, MLS) were the only ones known present in the Region. A Surf Scoter at Owens L. 20 May (SKB) and another in the McCain Valley, *San Diego* 5 Apr (JMP), along with 12 scattered around the Salton Sea 17 Mar-26 May, were inland. Along the coast, up to 2 somewhat late-staying Long-tailed Ducks remained in Cayucos through 11 Apr (KLP, DD), and even later staying birds were one at Newport Beach, *Orange* 6-20 May (DC) and another found alive on the beach at Pismo Beach, *San Luis Obispo* 31 May (TME); one near Rock Hill, S.E.S.S. 23 Mar-21 May (GMCC, KCM) was the only one reported inland. Seven Red-breasted Mergansers at C.L. 9 May (SLS) and 27 at N.E.S.S. 28 Apr (CMCG) were large numbers for these inland areas. A booming Sooty Grouse in the Greenhorn Mts., *Kern* 29 Apr-23 May (NJS) establishes the southernmost current location of occurrence in California.

A Red-throated Loon at Anaheim, *Orange* 14 Apr (DRW) was 25 km inland. A Pacific Loon on Fig Lagoon near Seeley, *Imperial* 13 Apr (JMP) was followed by 4 there 23 Apr (SRI). An impressive 35 Common Loons were on the *San Bernardino* portion of L. Havasu 15 Apr (DV). A count of 17 Horned Grebes at N.E.S.S. 3 Mar (CMCG) is the largest number to be recorded at the Salton Sink. A wintering Red-necked Grebe at Ventura, *Ventura* lingered through 6 Apr (RMCM), and single birds were inland, where much rarer, on L. Perris, *Riverside* 5-18 Mar (CMCG) and at N.E.S.S. 13-24 Mar (CMCG), the latter being only the 2nd at the Salton Sink.

A Laysan Albatross 67 km sw. of San Miguel I. 16 Apr (PEL) was in an area where no doubt regular. A Hawaiian Petrel photographed 215 km sw. of Pt. Arguello, *Santa Barbara* 23 Apr (GSM) was early; previous records in California waters have been from 24 May through 6 Sep. Three Cook's Petrels over the waters w. of San Nicolas I. 16 Apr (PEL) were the only ones reported this spring. Amazing was a

Cory's Shearwater seen from shore at Newport Beach 27 May (BED); there are only two previous records for this species in California and the Pacific. A Manx Shearwater 3 km off Mission Beach 4 Mar (JSF) provides the 5th record for *San Diego*. Single Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels seen from shore at La Jolla, *San Diego* 18 Mar (SW) and 26-27 May (SW, GMCC) were at the s. extreme of the species' pelagic range.

A young Blue-footed Booby was seen from shore at Carlsbad, *San Diego* 30 Apr (BM, JMcM), the first reported in California since 2009. Five Brown Boobies in the coastal waters of *San Diego* 4 Mar-6 May, one at San Clemente I. 21 May (JBR, DZP), and one photographed from shore at Pt. Dume, *Los Angeles* 23 Mar (JLF) illustrate the continued increase in occurrences of this species in s. California waters. A Brown Pelican far inland on the runway at E.A.F.B. 23 Mar (SG) was clearly lost. A Neotropical Cormorant at Ramer L., *Imperial* 3-17 Mar (GMCC, TJ) and another on L. Havasu 5 Apr (LaH) add to the ever-increasing number being found in se. California.

HERONS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Little Blue Heron in the *Riverside* portion of the Prado Basin 3-13 May (JEP) was the only one reported away from coastal *San Diego*. A Reddish Egret around Playa del Rey, *Los Angeles* 9 Apr (RP, KGL) was the only one away from coastal *San Diego* and *Orange*. Two pairs of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were attending nests at Imperial Beach, *San Diego* at the end of the period (GMCC), and at least one ad. was at the San Diego R. mouth 29 May+ (JP). A Black Vulture near Goleta, *Santa Barbara* 17 Mar (NLG) and at nearby Gaviota 27 Apr (MC) was likely the same bird seen off and on in this general area since Sep 2009. A pair of Harris's Hawks along with a "helper" were attending 3 young in a nest at Jacumba, *San Diego* at the end of May (EGK). A Common Black-Hawk photographed flying northward at Parker Dam, *San Bernardino* 6 Apr (TJ) provides the first record for the California side of the Colorado River. A Zone-tailed Hawk at Finney L., *Imperial* 28 Apr



This Red-necked Grebe, shown here on the last day of its 13-24 March 2012 stay at the northeastern corner of the Salton Sea, *Riverside County, California*, is only the second found (and first to be photographed) in the Salton Sink. Photograph by Chet McGaugh.



These two Gull-billed Terns at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, Riverside County, California 22 April 2012 are the first recorded inland away from the Salton Sink. Photograph by Mark A. Chappell.



Well inland east of the Sierra Nevada was this female Red Phalarope at Owens Lake, Inyo County, California on 24 May 2012. Photograph by Debbie J. House.

(GM) was no doubt a migrant. A Rough-legged Hawk at Tejon Ranch, Kern 14 Mar (CMcC) was quite late. A Gyr Falcon at Owens L. 21 Mar (DJH) was determined to be the same bird present in Riverside for much of the winter.

Two Sandhill Cranes near Bishop, Inyo 23 Apr (RCH) were late migrants in an unexpected area. Two Pacific Golden-Plovers near Port Hueme, Ventura 17 Mar (JeC) probably wintered locally, while single birds at two widely separated locations in Huntington Beach, Orange 14 Apr (PC, LeH), along with one on s. San Diego Bay 7 May (ND), were likely migrants. At least 35 Solitary Sandpipers reported from 29 Mar through 9 May, with 10 of those along the coast, were more than expected. The only Ruddy Turnstone reported inland away from the Salton Sea was one near the Kern N.W.R., Kern 5 May (SLS). Two Black Turnstones, rare inland, were at N.E.S.S. 28 Apr (RMCK). Some 700 Red Knots at Salt Creek, Riverside 19 Apr (CMcG) establishes a new high count for the Salton Sea. The only Semipalmated Sandpipers reported were single birds at Blythe 25 Apr (SRi) and 23-26 May (SRi). A Curlew Sandpiper was at V.C.G.P. 6 Apr (LS); there are two prior Ventura records. A Pectoral Sandpiper, rare in spring, was at Irvine 8 Apr (ZP). A Red Phalarope at Owens L. 24 May (DJH) was the 4th ever in spring in Inyo.

GULLS THROUGH PUFFINS

The presence of 6 Black-legged Kittiwakes together on San Clemente I. 6 Mar (JTS) was of note, as this species was exceptionally scarce elsewhere in the Region. An ad. Sabine's Gull found with a broken wing inland in the McCain Valley 12 Apr (LG, FH) had most likely moved n. out of the Gulf of California. Franklin's Gulls were judged more numerous than expected in the ne. part of the Region, with such numbers as up to 25 in a day at C.L. between 26 Apr and 9 May (SLS) and 21 at Owens L. 25 Apr (T&JH), but away from this area, numbers were lower than expected, with only 20 reported elsewhere inland and 5 along the coast. An ad. Heermann's

Gull on L. Isabella 13-14 May (AMS) and another at Lancaster, Los Angeles 6 May (DT) were inland and away from the Salton Sea. A Western Gull at C.L. 26 Apr-17 May (SLS) is one of a very few to have been found in the ne. part of this Region. An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at Oceano 16 Mar (TME) was the first in San Luis Obispo, and up to 2 on s. San Diego Bay 21-24 Mar (MS) provided the 3rd and 4th records for San Diego; at the Salton Sea, where regular in small numbers, a first-cycle bird was at S.E.S.S. 10-19 Apr (GMcC), and another was at N.E.S.S. on the late date of 12 May (CMcG). A Glaucous-winged Gull at Owens L. 2 Jun (SLS) was in an area where considered a casual straggler. At least 6 Glaucous Gulls on the coast of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara in Mar and Apr was more than usual; one near Oceanside, San Diego 23-25 Apr (ST) was the southernmost this period; and one at Arvin 15-25 Mar (TJ, CMcC) provided the 3rd record for Kern.

Two Gull-billed Terns at Newport Beach 11 Mar (BED) were the only ones on the coast n. of San Diego, and 2 photographed at S.J.W.A. 22 Apr (MAC, CMcG) were the first inland away from the Salton Sea. A Common Tern 2-3 km off Mission Beach, San Diego 3-4 Mar (BW, TJ) had most likely wintered locally, as the earliest spring migrants are not expected before mid-Apr. Four Elegant Terns on Fig Lagoon 11 Apr (BM) were inland. The only South Polar Skuas reported were 2 at the Thirty-mile Bank off San Diego 19 May (GMcC, JSF) and one seen from shore at La Jolla, San Diego during a storm 26 May (SW, BRi). Numbers of Common Murre continue to exceed expectations, as indicated by such counts as 320 off the Palos Verdes Pen., Los Angeles 15 Mar (BA), 80 at Newport Beach, Orange 25 Mar (BED), and 2176 flying past Pt. La Jolla at La Jolla 7 Mar (SW). A Pigeon Guillemot on San Clemente I. 15 May (JBR) was at the s. limit of this species' range. Two Marbled Murrelets off V.A.F.B. 9 Mar (NAL) were also at the s. limit of this species' normal range. Numbers of Rhinoceros Auklets off extreme s. California were also higher than expected, as indicated by

150-175 at Pt. La Jolla 24 Mar (SW), 170 at the Nine Mile Bank off San Diego 30 Mar (PEL), and 134 at San Clemente I. 14 Mar (JBR). A Tufted Puffin, rare in s. California waters, was 55 km sw. of Pt. Arguello 16 Apr (JAW).

DOVES THROUGH JAYS

Four White-winged Doves reported on the coast from 22 Apr through 5 May was far fewer than expected. A pair of Elf Owls returned to a desert oasis in Riverside 3 Apr (CMcC) and remained to nest; this may be the only pair remaining in California. A Flammulated Owl in the San Gabriel Mts., Los Angeles 21 Apr (LB) was the earliest this year. Close to 100 Lesser Nighthawks at Orange, Orange 11-15 May (M&SA, DRW) must be one of the largest concentrations of this species known in the coastal slope of California. Three unidentified nighthawks at Green Canyon high in the San Bernardino Mts. 19 May (BS) were likely Commons, and if so would establish the earliest date for a spring migrant Common in California. A Mexican Whip-poor-will at Green Canyon 30 Apr (SRe) was the earliest this spring. A probable Chimney Swift was at Desert Center 28 May (CAM). A Gilded Flicker at Cima Dome in e. San Bernardino 15 Apr (KS) was in the only area where breeding birds of this species are known still present, and a pair at McIntyre Park near Blythe, Riverside 3-18 May (SRi) appeared to have a nest on the Arizona side of the Colorado River.

Eastern Phoebe not noted in the winter report were at T.J.R.V. 9 Mar (JP) and Mesquite Springs, Inyo 12 Mar (SP), one in the e. Mojave Desert at Salt Creek Hills n. of Baker, San Bernardino 18 May (KW) was an unexpected late spring vagrant. A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers feeding young near Santa Ynez through 22 May (WTF) established only the 3rd breeding record for Santa Barbara; well n. of their expected range were birds in Inyo at Diaz Lake 2 Jun (SLS) and Laws 27-30 Apr (J&DP). A Tropical Kingbird at Bolsa Chica, Orange 29 Mar (RAE) was presumed to be the same bird seen there earlier in the winter. A Cassin's Kingbird at B.S.

5 May (AH) was in an area where rarely recorded. The only Eastern Kingbird was at C.L. 1 Jun (SLS), and the only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Prado Regional Park, *San Bernardino* 23 Mar (CB).

Four White-eyed Vireos were the most in spring in the Region apart from the unprecedented incursions of 2009 and 1992; birds were at El Segundo, *Los Angeles* 10-11 May (RB), Harbor Regional Park, *Los Angeles* 13-15 May (JS), Starr Ranch, *Orange* 25-29 May (JeW), and G.H.P. 31 May-3 Jun (AEK). A Cassin's Vireo near El Centro 22 May (KZK) was exceptionally late for the s. deserts. Yellow-throated Vireos were at Huntington Beach, *Orange* 11 May (SGM) and California City, *Kern* 2 Jun (AEK). Unlike last spring, relatively few w. passerine migrants were noted on the deserts well into Jun, though a Warbling Vireo at Niland, *Imperial* 9 Jun (GMCC) was extremely late. An interior (Woodhouse's) Western Scrub-Jay at Desert Center, *Riverside* 9 Apr (SJM) was a rare wanderer from the Great Basin region.

SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS

Migrant Purple Martins were relatively widespread, with the earliest 2 noted 22 Mar at Atascadero, *San Luis Obispo* (MLS); others of note included a flock of 20 at Scissor's Crossing, *San Diego* 12 Apr (JZ), 2 on San Clemente I. 20 Apr, and 3 more 7 Jun (JBR) for the 6th and 7th island records, and a late e. desert migrant at Nipton, *San Bernardino* 25 May (AH, VH). A Violet-green Swallow on San Clemente I. 17 Apr (JBR) was surprisingly only the 2nd for that island since 2006. A very early Bank Swallow was at a breeding site n. of Bishop, *Inyo* 24 Mar (JLD).

The spread of breeding Mountain Chickadees into the lowlands of the coastal slope was illustrated by the presence of likely breeding birds in e. Anaheim, *Orange* 1 Apr (VW) and at Oceanside, *San Diego* 17 May (SKB). A Brown Creeper at Brea 18 Apr (VW) was the latest to be found in spring in *Orange*. Late lowland Golden-crowned Kinglets were at Point Loma, *San Diego* 28 Apr (GN), San Clemente I. 2 May (DZP), and Birchim Canyon n. of Bishop 2-6 May (NJO). Unlike last spring, only a single Ruby-crowned Kinglet was noted on the deserts after May, a bird lingering at G.H.P. 30 May-1 Jun (K&BK).

Twelve Townsend's Solitaires at G.H.P. 12 May (AH, KHL) made an exceptional count for the lowlands; one at Cerro Alto 27 Apr (TME) was the first found in Apr in *San Luis Obispo*, and one on Figueroa Mt. 12 May (WV) was the latest ever for *Santa Barbara*. A late migrant Hermit Thrush was near El Centro 22 May (KZK), and a Sage Thrasher at N.E.S.S. 28 Apr (RMCK) was well after the main Jan-Mar spring passage of this species. A Curve-billed Thrasher (with a

possible second bird) was in the Palen-McCoy Wilderness Area w. of the lower Colorado R., *Riverside* 19-27 Apr (CMCC). A California Thrasher near Barstow, *San Bernardino* 19 Apr (FT) was well away from expected chaparral habitat.

The 9 Ovenbirds found 9-27 May were all on the deserts. The only coastal Northern Waterthrush was at Huntington Beach 28 Apr-2 May; one at El Centro 18 May (KZK) was the first ever found in spring in the Salton Sink; and 4 others were elsewhere on the deserts 25 Apr-31 May. Eight Black-and-white Warblers found on the coastal slope during the period include 2 in late Mar that might have wintered locally; 11 others were found on the n. deserts 28 Apr-2 Jun. Prothonotary Warblers were at Point Loma 6 May (BJS), Scotty's Castle, Death Valley N.P., *Inyo* 8 May (RC), and e. of Big Pine, *Inyo* 25 May (PJM). An Orange-crowned Warbler near El Centro on the odd dates of 2-3 Jun (KZK) might have represented a post-breeding wanderer. Four Tennessee Warblers were along the coast 6 May-2 Jun, with another at Horsethief Spring, *San Bernardino* 19 May (JB). Virginia's Warblers are exceptionally rare as spring migrants in the Region; one at West Los Angeles 21-22 Apr (RB) almost certainly wintered locally, but migrants were on the deserts at Keystone Canyon, *San Bernardino* 21 Apr (PJM), at Zzyzx, *San Bernardino* 22 Apr (PJM), and in Birchim Canyon 3 May (BJK). A Lucy's Warbler at Big Morongo Canyon, *San Bernardino* 1-10 May (EAC) was at a breeding locality from which the species has been absent in recent years. Five Hooded Warblers in e. *Kern* 30 Apr-30 May were the only ones documented. American Redstarts at Santa Ana, *Orange* 4-7 Apr (DRW) and Escondido, *San Diego* 18 Apr (JmCM) might have wintered locally; 5 spring vagrants were on the deserts 5 May-4 Jun, and one was on San Clemente I. 15 Jun (JBR). A better-than-average showing of Northern Parulas brought 13 to coastal areas 2 May-14 Jun and another 21 to the deserts 25 Apr-20 Jun. Chestnut-sided Warblers were at San Diego 2 May (TRS), California City 3 Jun (SLS), and San Clemente I. 13 Jun (EJL). Late spring vagrant Palm Warblers were at Lancaster, *Los Angeles* 7 May (JSF) and at G.H.P. 13 May (AEK) and 8 Jun (K&BK), but one at Palm Springs, *Riverside* 8 Apr (BRU) was perhaps wintering locally, as was one at Imperial Beach 17 Mar (JTS); another 5 in coastal areas 15-30 Apr must surely have been migrants, though this is well before the spring peak of all other "eastern" vagrant warblers.

Undoubtedly wintering was a Black-throated Green Warbler along the San Gabriel R. at El Monte, *Los Angeles* 19

Mar (EE), several km upstream of another bird noted in the winter report. Painted Redstarts, very rare as spring vagrants, were at Salt Creek Hills 13 Apr (RK, OS) and at Horsethief Spring 26-27 May (JB). A Yellow-breasted Chat at Los Osos, *San Luis Obispo* 19-24 Mar (JSR) had surely wintered locally.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Four Clay-colored Sparrows on the coastal slope in Mar and Apr added to last winter's relatively high total; additional spring vagrants were at Encinitas, *San Diego* 6 May (PAG) and Rancho Palos Verdes, *Los Angeles* 5 Jun (*LACM; DSC) and on the deserts at Nipton 21 Apr (PJM), Borrego Springs 2 May (RT), and B.S. 3 Jun (MB). A Field Sparrow, the first for *Los Angeles* and only the 6th for the Region, was at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area in the Baldwin Hills 19 Apr-9 May (A&EB). Black-chinned Sparrows away from expected localities included birds on the Palos Verdes Pen., *Los Angeles* 15-18 Apr (EG) and San Clemente I. 3 May (SEE). A migrant Grasshopper Sparrow was a surprise at Desert Center, *Riverside* 10 May (MAC). Up to 8 Lark Buntings were at the Carrizo Plain N.M., *San Luis Obispo* 17 Mar-14 May (DA, HB, TP, SDF), and up to 5 were near Holtville in the Imperial Valley 12 Apr (AD); others were at Castaic Lagoon, *Los Angeles* 20 Mar (JB), Borrego Springs 5 Apr (PA), and e. of Chiriaco Summit, *Riverside* 5 Apr (NM). Single Swamp Sparrows at Laguna Niguel, *Orange* 5 Apr (A&JB) and Kelso, *San Bernardino* 8-15 Apr (BED) were not known to have wintered at those sites. Each spring, breeding Dark-eyed (Oregon) Juncos expand farther into the coastal lowlands, and one carrying nesting material at Lake Forest, *Orange* 5 Apr (BAA) and a fledgling at Manhattan Beach, *Los Angeles* 30 May (TD) were illustrative of this expansion.

A male Hepatic Tanager at G.H.P. 3 Jun (TEW, LLA) was a very rare spring vagrant. A male Scarlet Tanager was along Arrastre Cr. in the San Bernardino Mts. 19-22 May (BS, ET).



This White-eyed Vireo photographed on the first day of its 10-11 May 2012 stay at El Segundo, Los Angeles County was one of four found in Southern California this spring. Photograph by Frank Gilliland.

A *Pyrrhuloxia* in the Palen-McCoy Wilderness Area 28 Apr (CMcC) was in a region of washes draining into the lower Colorado R. where the species has been found several times previously. Some 17 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in coastal regions 10 May–12 Jun, along with another 7 in Mar and Apr that had probably wintered locally; another 14 were on the deserts 6 May–9 Jun. A very late Black-headed Grosbeak was near El Centro 3 Jun (KZK). Indigo Buntings were widespread in May and early Jun, with at least 10 on the coastal slope and 21 on the deserts; earlier records included birds at Castaic Lagoon 5 Mar (JH), Whitewater Canyon Preserve, Riverside 20–27 Mar (FS), San Clemente I. 20 Apr (AKS), and Sabre Springs, San Diego 22 Apr (AA). Two very late migrant Lazuli Buntings were near El Centro 3 Jun (KZK).

A Bronzed Cowbird at Baker, San Bernardino 21 May (DK) was a bit nw. of the expected range of this species. An Orchard Oriole was at Horsethief Spring 27 May (DV, LH). Baltimore Orioles at San Fernando, Los Angeles 14–23 Mar (B&ST) and Chula Vista, San Diego mid-Mar–15 Apr (JO) had probably wintered locally, and one at San Diego's Balboa Park 27–28 Mar (TRS) was likely the same male seen there in Dec 2011; 7 additional coastal vagrants were noted 20 Apr–23 May, and 3 more were on the Kern deserts 14 May–10 Jun. The Lawrence's Goldfinch story varies wildly from year to year. This species was scarce on the Kern deserts this spring (KHL), unlike last spring, when huge flocks were widely seen; in contrast, a flock of 500+ at Carlsbad, San Diego 27 Feb (SKB) was exceptionally large for that area, and McKernan

reported several flocks of 100–400 birds around Redlands and San Bernardino in Mar. Last but not least in the winter's southerly incursion of **Common Redpoll** was an astonishing bird on San Clemente I. 3–4 May (MJS), following the Region's first record from San Diego in winter.

Cited observers (County coordinators in bold-face): Alex Abela, Paulette Ache, Bruce A. Aird, Dave Allen, Bernardo Alps, Marian & Steve Alter, Liga L. Auzins, Richard Barth, Hope Batcheller, Al and Janet Baumann (A&JB), Lance Benner, Johnny Bovee, Steve K. Brad, Matt Brady, Ann and Eric Brooks (A&EB), Chuck Burt, Pat Cabe, Matt Caligiure, David Campbell, Mark A. Chappell, Eugene A. Cardiff, Jay Carroll (JaC), Jeff Cartier (JeC), **David M. Compton** (Santa Barbara), Daniel S. Cooper, Rebecca Crofton, Brian E. Daniels, Alexa DeJoannis, Nicole Desnoyers, Darren Dowell, Tracy Drake, Jon L. Dunn, **Tom M. Edell** (San Luis Obispo), Shannon E. Ehlers, Elias Elias, Richard A. Erickson, Jon S. Feenstra, Jon L. Fisher, Sam D. Fitton, Wes T. Fritz, Noah L. Gaines, **Kimball L. Garrett** (Los Angeles), Peter A. Ginsburg, Laurie Gorman, Stan Gray, Ed Griffin, Jim Hardesty, Lauren Harter (LaH), Lena Hayashi (LeH), **Tom & Jo Heindel** (Inyo), **Kelli Heindel-Levinson** (Kern), Fern Hoffman, Debbie J. House, Chris B. Howard, Rosie C. Howard, Andrew Howe, Vernon Howe, **Oscar Johnson** (Ventura), Tom Johnson, Eric G. Kallen, Doug Karalun, Barb J. Kelley, Russell Kokx, **Alexander E. Koonce** (San Bernardino), Kenneth Z. Kurland, Ken and Brenda Kyle (K&BK), Kevin G. Larson, Paul E. Lehman, Nick A. Lethaby, Erick J. Lundgren,

Curtis A. Marantz, **Guy McCaskie** (San Diego and Imperial), Chris McCreedy, **Chet McGaugh** (Riverside), Robert McKernan, Jimmy McMorran, Robert McMorran, Peter J. Metropulos, G. Scott Mills, Kathy C. Molina, Nathan Moorhatch, Steven G. Morris, Greg Morton, Brennan Mulrooney, Stephen J. Myers, Gary Nunn, Jeff, Opydycke, Nancy J. Overholtz, Jim and Debby Parker (J&DP), Steve Parsons, James M. Pawlicki, Jim Pea, Trent Pearce, Kaaren L. Perry, Zachery Perry, James E. Pike, Rick Pine, D. Zak Poulton, Sandra Remley (SRe), Bruce Rideout (BRi), Karen Riesz, Steve Ritt (SRi), Jim S. Royer, Brad Rumble (BRu), Jethro B. Runco, Matt Sadowski, Aliza K. Sager, Jose Sandoval, Larry Sansone, N. John Schmitt, Ken Schneider, Alison M. Sheehy, Brad Singer, Onkar Singh, Martin J. Sluk, Maggie L. Smith, Susan E. Smith, B. J. Stacey, **Justyn T. Stahl** (San Clemente Island), Trent R. Stanley, Susan L. Steele, Frank Sterrett, Robert Theriault, Daniel Tinoco, Eric Tipton, Francis Toldi, Steve Tucker, Becky and Steve Turley (B&ST), Wim van Dam, David Vander Pluym, Stanley Walens, Ken Watanabe, Bruce Webb, Valerie Wheeler, **Douglas R. Willick** (Orange), Jennifer Wilcox (JeW), Jay Withgott (JaW), Thomas E. Wurster, Jim Zimmer. An additional 30+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports; all have our thanks. ☺

Guy McCaskie, 954 Grove Avenue, Imperial Beach, California 91932, (guymcc@pacbell.net)
Kimball L. Garrett, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd, Los Angeles, California 90007, (kgarrett@nhm.org)

Baja California Peninsula



Richard A. Erickson
Roberto Carmona
Gorgonio Ruiz-Campos

Coverage was light this spring. Numbers of almost all landbird migrants were down in the Vizcaino Desert compared to last year, with the exception of Cedar Waxwing. But any comparison based on only four days in May is largely speculative. Species of particular note in the account that follows include Horned Grebe, Roseate Spoonbill, Thayer's Gull, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. At-sea highlights include Flesh-footed Shearwater, Pigeon Guillemot, and Bay-breasted Warbler.

GEESE THROUGH ALCIDS

The last report of the season's Greater White-

fronted Geese was of 2 at Lagunas de Chametla 2 May (RC). Lingering ducks included a Blue-winged Teal and a Redhead at El Rosario 14 May and 30 American Wigeons, 2 Blue-winged Teal, 300 Northern Pintails, 8 Green-winged Teal, and a Lesser Scaup at Guerrero Negro 16 May (all MJB, RAE, EDZH). Following 3 in Baja California Sur in winter, a Horned Grebe at the Guerrero Negro saltworks this season might not seem so unusual, but the bird seen there on 24 Apr and 23 May (ph. VAP) was exceptionally late. Clark's Grebe was found in Baja California Sur again this spring, with 4 seen among 25 Western Grebes in the vicinity of Bahía Tortugas 15 May (ph. MJB, RAE, EDZH). A Flesh-footed Shearwater was 11 km nw. of Islas Coronado 26 May (PAG et al.). The species undoubtedly occurs in Regional waters annu-

ally, but there are fewer than 10 actual records. One thousand Sooty Shearwaters in the same area 15 Apr (PEL et al.) was the largest number reported to us in 10 years. Up to 6 Wood Storks were seen intermittently in the Cape region from Sep 2009 through Aug 2011. This season, 2 ads. were at Lagunas de Chametla 13-19 May (VAP et al.). Also visiting from mainland Mexico, the Roseate Spoonbills found in the winter remained in the La Paz area through spring. One to 5 were seen at various times and places 19 Mar–17 May (PAG, ph. VAP et al.).

Single migrating Swainson's Hawks were seen along the n. border at Tecate 8 Apr (JS) and La Rumorosa 29 Apr (ph. JK). The last Zone-tailed Hawk reported from the Cape District was at Lagunas de Chametla 18 Mar (DMT). At the n. end of the Vizcaino Desert, one was at Cataviña 14 May (ph. MJB). We typically receive little evidence of spring shorebird migration through Baja California Sur. Examples this year included 30 Surf-birds at Nopoló 8-11 Apr (the first seen there by Haglund following years of observations), a Pectoral Sandpiper at Estero San José 21 Mar (ph. CB), and single Wilson's Phalaropes at Nopoló 17-18 Apr (TH) and Guerrero Negro 16 May (MJB, RAE, EDZH). Laughing Gull is generally uncommon and local in the Region, especially away from nesting areas. Although previously found at Guerrero Negro/Laguna Ojo de Liebre, Laguna San Ignacio, and even Isla San Roque, one at Bahía Asunción 15 May (RAE, ph. MJB, EDZH) appears to be the first reported from that oft-visited locale. A Thayer's Gull farther out the Vizcaino Pen. at Punta Eugenia 16 May (ph. RAE, ph. MJB, EDZH) established only the 4th record for Baja California Sur and the first since 2000. Common Murres were in the general vicinity of Islas Coronado 15 Apr (2, PEL et al.) and 26 May (PAG et al.). Two Pigeon Guillemots at Coronado Sur 28 May (ph. TAB et al.) made it three consecutive years that the species has been found in the area.



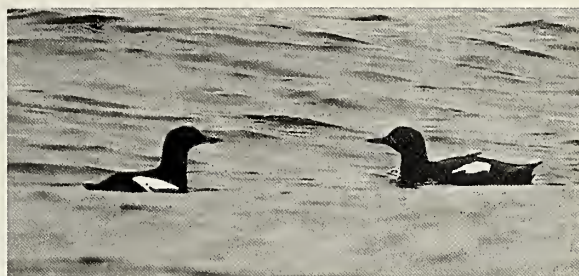
This worn first-cycle Thayer's Gull was found at Punta Eugenia, Baja California Sur on 16 May 2012. The four previous state records of the species came from more expected dates in the years 1977-2000. Photograph by Mark J. Billings.

OWLS THROUGH FINCHES

Where hasn't Great Horned Owl occurred on the Region's mainland? One at Bahía Tortugas 16 May (MJB, RAE, EDZH) may have further limited the possibilities. Red-shafted Flickers are rare s. of the California District, so 2 at Rancho San Gregorio (near San Borja) on the late date of 10 May (GRC) were exceptional. With only three previous state records, all in fall, Olive-sided Flycatchers made quite an appearance at the small city park in Guerrero Negro. The first one on 14 May (RAE, ph. MJB, EDZH) was followed by observations of 2 each on 16 (ph. MJB, RAE, EDZH) & 24 May (ph. VAP, AGA). How many individuals were actually involved is unknown. Bank Swallow is a rare migrant through most of the Region, so 4 at El Rosario 14 May and one at Guerrero Negro 16 May (all MJB, RAE, EDZH) were noteworthy. Also at Guerrero Negro, an American Pipit on 16 May (RAE) was the latest ever recorded in the state. Cedar Waxwing numbers were good in the Vizcaino Desert, with 84 seen at 9 locations 14-16 May (MJB, RAE, EDZH).

Vagrant warblers this spring included an Ovenbird (ph. VAP) and a Black-and-white Warbler (VAP, AGA) at Guerrero Negro 24 May and a Bay-breasted Warbler n. of Islas Coronado 3 Jun (ph. SB). The first of seven previous Regional records was also made at sea, near Islas San Benito in Jun 1965. A Clay-colored Sparrow at Nopoló 1 May (TH) was the last one reported from the wintering grounds in Baja California Sur. Two late White-crowned Sparrows at Punta Prieta 14 May included one of the subspecies *gambelii* (MJB) and one of the subspecies *oriantha* (RAE). Summer Tanager did not winter at Tecate this year, but a singing male was there 26 May (JS). For the 2nd consecutive spring, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting were well reported. Grosbeaks were at Rancho El Descanso 14 May and Bahía Tortugas 15 May, and buntings were at Rancho El Descanso 14 May, Cataviña 17 May, Rancho San José de Castro 15 May (all MJB, RAE, EDZH), and Nopoló 22 May (2 singing males; TH). In the Vizcaino Desert, single Red-winged Blackbirds at Rancho El Aguila II 14 May and Villa Jesús María 14-16 May and a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Rancho San Ramón 15-16 May (all MJB, RAE, EDZH) were unusual. A Purple Finch at Tecate 4 Mar (ph. JS) was the first one seen there in two years.

Contributors: Nallely Arce, Santiago Ayala-Arce, Victor Ayala-Pérez, Cathie Barron, Mark



Pigeon Guillemots were found in Mexican waters for the third consecutive year. These two were at Isla Coronado Sur, Baja California on 28 May 2012. Photograph by Thomas A Blackman.



At least two Olive-sided Flycatchers were found at Guerrero Negro, Baja California Sur this spring; this was the first, on 14 May 2012. The three previous state records were all from fall. Photograph by Mark J. Billings.

J. Billings, Thomas A Blackman, Steve Brad, Roberto Carmona, Tom Crabtree, Richard A. Erickson, Peter A. Gaede, Daniel Galindo Espinosa, Gabriela Gutiérrez, Antonio Gutiérrez-Aguilar, Tom Haglund, Adriana Hernández, Steve N. G. Howell, Jay Keller, Paul E. Lehman, Gerardo Marrón, Bob Martinka, Guy McCaskie, Steven G. Mlodinow, David Molina Tovar, David W. Povey, Peter Pyle, Patty Rehn, Joaquin Rivera, Gorgonio Ruiz-Campos, Anne Sammis, Eduardo Soto Montoya, Brian L. Sullivan, Joe Sweeney, Roger Wolfe, Enrique D. Zamora-Hernández. As usual, records submitted to and accessed from eBird/aVerAves were essential in the compilation of this report. 🐦

Richard A. Erickson, LSA Associates, 20 Executive Park, Suite 200, Irvine, California 92614, (richard.erickson@lsa-assoc.com)

Roberto Carmona, Departamento de Biología Marina, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur, Apartado Postal 19-B, La Paz, Baja California Sur, México, (beauty@uabcs.mx)

Gorgonio Ruiz-Campos, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Apartado Postal 233 Ensenada, Baja California, 22800, México

U. S. mailing address: PMB 064, P.O. Box 189003 Coronado, California 92178-9003, (gruiz@uabc.mx)

Mexico

Héctor Gómez de Silva
Amy McAndrews
Jorge Montejo

NORTHERN MEXICO



Two Canvasbacks were at the wastewater treatment facility in Gómez Palacio, Dgo. 13 May (MRLL, FVP). Three White Ibis continued at Refugio Salcido near Durango, Dgo. 11 Mar (ph. JHMG, BR). A first record for the subregion, 2 **Caspian Terns** were at the wastewater treatment facility in Gómez Palacio, Dgo. 15 Apr (ph. FVP, MRLL); a Ring-billed Gull was also there on the same date (FVP, MRLL). In Nuevo León, a Streaked Flycatcher was at Parque Estanzuela in s. Monterrey 16 May (RV, AR, ph. HV). A Gray Catbird was at the Rio Tunel, about 18 km from Durango, Dgo. 25 Mar (ph. JHMG, BS), about 25 km. e. of the mid-Dec individual. At least 6 Clay-colored Thrushes were near Nuevo Laredo, Tamps. 6 Mar (ph. ARR). A rare species in the state of Durango, a Rufous-backed Robin was discovered at the Rio Tunel 25 Mar (ph. JHMG, BS). A pair of European Starlings was documented nesting in a palm tree hole at Parque Niños Heroes in Monterrey 21 Mar (ph. RV, MG). A female **Cape May Warbler** (ph. BS, JAPP) and a Painted Bunting were at Parque Guadiana in Durango 21 Apr (BS, JAPP). A group of at least 3 Field Sparrows was at Presa de la Juventud near Monterrey 6 Apr (ph. GG), with up to 6 observed here during the month prior.

Contributors (area compilers in boldface): Gerardo Góngora, Mario Guerrero, José Hugo Martínez Guerrero, María del Refugio Loya Loya, Juan Antonio Pzarro Pérez, Alfredo Ramírez Rubio, Bernardo Rodríguez, Bryan Sharp, **Francisco Valdés Peresgasga**, **René Valdés**, **Hector Villalón**.

CENTRAL MEXICO

A male Canvasback was at Marismas Nacion-

ales, Nay 22 Apr. (ph. JV). A group of 7 Ruddy Ducks on Laguna Miradores, Ver. 17 May (JMo, AM) were late migrants. A lingering American Bittern was at the PEMEX refinery near Minatitlán, Ver. 29 May (GRR), and a Glossy Ibis was there 26 Apr (ph. MG, GRR). A late Swainson's

Hawk was over Parque el Haya in Xalapa, Ver. 19 May (JMo, AM). An ad. Northern Jacana was at Parque Ecologico Xochimilco, D.F. 16-30 May (ph. AMH, RGW). An ad. **Least Tern** discovered at San Baltazar Tetela at Presa Valsequillo s. of Puebla, Pue. 16 May (ph. JRB, ILZR) appears to represent a first state record. Two Eurasian Collared-Doves were just e. of Xalapa at Dos Rios, Ver. 17 May (AM, JMo). A Balsas Screech-Owl was found roosting near Lago Alcozahue e. of Tecoman, Col. 6 Apr (ph. JMa, JBJ).



A rare spring transient in Veracruz, 3 Western Kingbirds were at Parque Macuiltepetl in Xalapa 13 May (ph. JALG), one was at Laguna Miradores e. of Xalapa 17 May (ph. JMo, AM), and 3 were at Parque el Haya in Xalapa 17 May (ph. AM, JMo). In Tlaxcala, a state from which

few records are received, a pair of European Starlings was seen at a probable nest hole in the Tlaxcala Botanical Garden 23 Apr (ph. FVL). South of its normal wintering range, a Marsh Wren was near Minatitlán, Ver. 25 Mar (ph. MG). Four Rufous-backed Robins were at Santiago de Anaya, Hgo. 1-15 Apr (MB).

A female Golden-winged Warbler was at Lomas Altas, D.F. 24 Apr (ph. HCL). A female Bay-breasted Warbler at Parque el Haya in Xalapa, Ver. 19 May was above normal elevation (ph. AM, ph. JMo). At least 4 Yellow Warblers were along Reforma near its intersection with Sevilla in the D.F. 24 May (HGdS, MPV). Presumed a first state record, a **Cassin's Sparrow** was discovered along the Chanal Rd. near Colima, Col. 10 Mar (ph. JBJ). A Lincoln's Sparrow at Las Minas, Ver. 30 May was a very late migrant (ph. AM, JMo). Three White-crowned Sparrows were at Humedal Forum in Tepic, Nay 27 Mar (JV). A male Ochre Oriole was along Las Barrancas rd., Ver. 11 Apr (HGdS).

Contributors (area compilers in boldface): Jesper Bay Jacobsen, Michael Blust, Héctor Ceballos Lascaraín, **Héctor Gómez de Silva**, Manuel Grosselet, José Alberto Lobato García, Jairo Martínez, **Amy McAndrews**, Alejandro Meléndez Herrada, **Jorge Montejo**, Mónica Pérez Villafañá, Gerardo Rodríguez Ramos, Jajean Rose-Burney, Jonathan Vargas, Fabián Velásquez López, Richard G. Wilson, Isabel Leandro Zamora Rodríguez.

SOUTHERN MEXICO

Three Muscovy Ducks were at the La Libertad marshes, Chis. 23 Apr (HGdS). A Cinnamon Teal was noted near Tonalá, Chis. 21 Feb (MG, CM, GT). A group of 24 Redheads was at Santa Maria Xadani, Oax. 24 Mar (MC et al.), and



late migrating (oversummering?) individuals included 3 males at Santa Maria Xadani, Oax. 5 May (AM, JM, FA, RA), 4 males were there 11 May (AM, JM, FA), and a female on a permanent pond s. of Tapanatepec, Oax. 27 May (MC et al.). Two Lesser Scaup were at Santa Maria Xadani, Oax. 5 May (AM, JM, FA, RA). Also lingering migrants were 2 Ruddy Ducks and 2 Pied-billed Grebes e. of La Ventosa, Oax. 5 May (AM, JM, FA, RA). A high count of 29 Blue-footed Boobies came from Las Coloradas, Oax. 25 Mar (MC et al.). An imm. Red-tailed Hawk was near La Venta, Oax. 13 Apr (AM, ph. JM), a late record for the subregion. A pair of Aplomado Falcons was s. of Santo Domingo Ingenio, Oax. 4 Apr. (AM, ph. JM, ph. FA, RA). Some 450 American Coots were at Santa Maria Xadani, Oax. 5 May (AM, JM, FA, RA) and 350 there 11 May (AM, JM, FA). A flock of 200 Franklin's Gulls was seen migrating inland over Zanatepec, Oax. 16 Apr (HGdS).

Three Eurasian Collared-Doves were at Tuxtepec, Oax. 6 Mar (MG), and 2 were along the hwy. at Donaji, Oax. 13 May (AM, JM); a belated record of one comes from Oaxaca City 25 Oct (MG). At least one White-throated Swift was nw. of Santo Domingo Ingenio, Oax. 10 Apr (AM, JM). A nest-building Scaly-breasted Hummingbird was in the garden opposite the Bonampak ruins' taquilla, Chis. 14 Mar (AM, AK, EK, SI, LI). Another late migrant was a female Green-breasted Mango ne. of La Venta, Oax. 6 Apr (ph. JM, AM, FA). A pair of Resplendent Quetzals was on the Cinco Palos rd. at Lagos de Montebello, Chis. 19 Mar (ph. AM, AK, EK, SI, LI).

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Mitla, Oax. 23 Mar (MC et al.). Two Fork-tailed Flycatchers were seen s. of Las Guacamayas, Chis. 19 Mar (AM, AK, EK, SI, LI), and a pair was seen in courtship near Angel Albino Corzo airport se. of Tuxtla, Chis. 12 Apr (ph. JS). A late Loggerhead Shrike was sw. of La Venta, Oax. 26 Apr (AM, JM, FA, RA). A pair of Mangrove Vireos was at the La Libertad marshes, Chis. 23 Apr (HGdS). A Golden-crowned Kinglet was at Corral de Piedra at La Cumbre, Oax. 14 Apr, and downslope from there, a Happy Wren was at the "Garbage Gulch" 13 Apr (HGdS). A Clay-colored Thrush was at the Huatulco G.C., Oax. 26 May (MC et al.). A possibly territorial male Aztec Thrush was audio-lured into view below Arroyo Guacamayas, Oax. 23 May (MC et al.).

At higher elevation than expected, single Bay-breasted Warblers were seen at Cerro San Cristóbalito, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chis. 15 (ph. JS) & 16 May (FA). South of its normal range, a Chestnut-sided Warbler was ne. of La Venta, Oax. 24 Apr (AM, FA, RA). A migrant Audubon's Warbler was at El Triunfo camp,

Chis. 28 Feb (ph. AM, JM, FA, MG, CM, LT). A late-migrating male Golden-cheeked Warbler was near San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chis. 21 Apr (HGdS). A species that apparently continues its northward expansion along the Pacific coast, 2 Blue-gray Tanagers were in downtown Huatulco, Oax. 25 May and one at the Huatulco G.C. 26 May (MC et al.). Lingering single Lincoln's Sparrows were at the fruit orchards in upper Arroyo Guacamayas, Oax. 21 May and at the stream below Teotitlán del Valle, Oax. 22 May (MC et al.). A male Lazuli Bunting was at Teotitlán del Valle, Oax. 2 Mar (ph. RV). Two male Brown-headed Cowbirds were noted displaying to a female at Huatulco, Oax. 25 May (MC et al.). **Giant Cowbirds** were widely reported: a male was near Boca del Cielo, Chis. 18 Mar and 28 May; 2 males and a female were discovered near Puerto Arista, Chis. 18 Mar (MC et al.); 3 males were seen n. of Tapanatepec, Oax. 24 Mar (ph. DF, MC et al.); and 2 males were n. of Juchitán, Oax. 25 Mar (MC et al.). Seven Brewer's Blackbirds were s. of La Ventosa, Oax. 25 Mar (ph. AM, FA).

Contributors (area compilers in boldface): Francesca Albini, Rocío Apolinar, Michael Carmody, Dan Forster, Héctor Gómez de Silva, Manuel Grosselet, Lori Isley, Stan Isley, **Amy McAndrews**, Christoph Moning, **Jorge Montejo**, Jorge Silva, Andy Strepniewski, Ellen Strepniewski, Gerlinde Taurer, René Valdes.

YUCATAN PENINSULA



An Agami Heron in the Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve was a new species for the state of Yucatán, and two Plain-breasted Ground-Doves photographed in Quintana Roo were the first photographically documented in the state.

DUCKS THROUGH TERNS

Four male and 2 female Blue-winged Teal were still making use of a newly created wetland at the private reserve of Rancho Jaguar, 22 km s. of Tuzcacab in s. Yucatán as late as 11 May (BM, JP). A Redhead first seen on the same wetland 23 Feb was still there 11 Apr (JP). An exhausted juv. Red-footed Booby found on the outer beach

of Cozumel, Q. Roo around midnight 6 May added a new species to the island's list (ph. RC). A pair of White-tailed Kites was photographed at a nest with 3 nestlings on the rd. to Dzibalchen, Q. Roo 21 Apr; there were 3 other ads. in the area (AD, ph. OD, LT). A Crane Hawk was in the mangrove beside the cenote on the rd. to Chunchucmil near Celestún, Yuc. 18 Mar (ph. FB, WB, BM), and another was seen at the private reserve of Rancho Chucab, 15 km s. of Espita, Yuc. 6 Apr (BM, AMo). A White-tailed Hawk was photographed near Telchac Puerto, Yuc. 22 Mar (ph. FB, WB), while an Ornate Hawk-Eagle was photographed near its nest in the heavy forest of the Caobas ejido in s. Quintana Roo 23 Apr (AD, ph. OD, LT). A pair of Collared Forest-Falcons was heard calling at Hacienda Itzincab, 25 km s. of Mérida, Yuc. 14 Apr where they have been known to nest in the past in an abandoned water tank (BM).

A check of the harbor at Chuburná, Yuc. 29 Apr turned up 14 Green Herons, probably a mix of residents and migrants (BM). An ad. **Agami Heron** at Petén Tuchá in the Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve was first reported 2 Mar (ph. DN) and was still there 23 Mar (AD, ph. OD); this constitutes the first record for the state of Yucatán of a species previously known only from the s. part of the peninsula. An American Bittern was in the wetlands on the side of the rd. leading into San Felipe from Panabá, Yuc. 2 Mar (SC, FB, WB), where singles have been reported several times in recent years. Good photographic work confirmed that 2 dark ibis on a

roadside pond near El Cuyo, Yuc. 5 Mar were Glossy Ibis (ph. FB, WB, SC). No Black Skimmers were at the Chuburná harbor 29 Apr, but there were 200 Least Sandpipers on the mudflat then (BM). A Brown Noddy, probably from the colony on Alacrán Reef, was photographed in the early afternoon on the beach at Río Lagartos, Yuc. 9 Apr (ph. ER).

DOVES THROUGH EUPHONIAS

Four Eurasian Collared-Doves were near the Chablé toll booth in Camp. 23 Apr (HGdS). A pair of **Plain-breasted Ground-Doves** photographed near a roadside pond at km 15 on the

rd. to Reforma from Bacalar 21 Apr provided the first photographic documentation of the species in Quintana Roo; there were several others in the vicinity (AD, ph. OD, LT). A female Vermiculated Screech-Owl was photographed at its nest hole at Ecotucán 5 km n. of Bacalar, Q. Roo 20 Apr (AD, ph. OD, JV); 2 chicks fledged successfully from that nest in early Jun (ph. JV). At dawn, a flock of 80 Lesser Nighthawks was reported flying westward about 7-10 m high over Rancho San Salvador bordering the Ria Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, Yuc. 24 Mar (AD). A Common Nighthawk was over Laguna Ocom, Q. Roo 26 Mar (BM, WS). A Yucatan Poorwill was heard near San Antonio Chel, about 2 km s. of Hunucmá, Yuc., during the first week of Mar and first week of Apr (WS); this species has not previously been recorded this far w. in Yucatán. An estimated 128 Vaux's Swifts were counted flying into and out of a well at Villas Ecotucán, Yuc. 20 Apr (AD, ph. OD, JV); the species has only infrequently been documented in the s. part of the peninsula.

A **Turquoise-browed Motmot** was heard calling in Camp. near Jonuta, Tab. 23 Apr (HGdS). Two subad. male Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, a regular but uncommon migrant, were reported in the Cuxtal Reserve s. of Mérida, Yuc. 23 Mar



The first documented Least Tern for the state of Puebla was found at San Baltazar Tetela on Presa Valsequillo, near the city of Puebla 16 May 2012. Photograph by Jajean Rose-Burney.

(FC, WB, JG). A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was seen in an overgrown cornfield at Laguna Ocom, 8 km s. of Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Q. Roo 24 Mar (BM, WS), a little earlier than when most appear. A Mangrove Vireo was at the Centla wetlands, Tab. 23 Feb (ph. SNGH). A Yucatan Wren was photographed with nesting material in its bill at Rancho San Salvador, Yuc. 24 Mar (AD, ph. OD). A Northern Waterthrush was at a private hacienda 5 km w. of Uman, Yuc. 14 May (BM)—a very late date for this species. Numerous migrants were passing through Cozumel 29 Apr, including a male Blackpoll Warbler (ph.

RC). Two rare Lark Sparrows were at Rancho San Salvador, Yuc. 24 Mar (AD, ph. OD), and 4 Savannah Sparrows were seen there 2 Mar (SC, FB, WB). A male Blue Grosbeak was at Rancho Aktunku 5 km s. of Espita, Yuc. 14 May (BM), while 200 Indigo Buntings were at Dzoyaxché in the Cuxtal Reserve, Yuc. 23 Mar (ph. FB, WB, JG). On Cozumel, a male Dickcissel was at El Cedral 30 Apr, and a male Bobolink was at the Cozumel G.C. 29 Apr (ph. RC). A pair of Olive-backed Euphonias was photographed as the male collected nesting material at ejido Caobas, Q. Roo 22 Apr (AD, ph. OD, LT).

Contributors (area compiler in boldface): Frits Bosveld, Willeke Bosveld, Rafael Chacón, Santiago Contreras, Owen Deutsch, Alex Dzib, Jesús García, Héctor Gómez de Silva, Steve N. G. Howell, **Barbara MacKinnon H.**, Rodrigo Migoya, Ana Morales, Diego Núñez, José Patrón, Erik Ramos, Waldemar Santamaría, Luis Tellez, Jacqueline Vanagold. 🐦

Héctor Gómez de Silva, Xola 314-E, 03100 México, D.F., Mexico, (hector.gomezdesilva@gmail.com)

Amy McAndrews, Jorge Montejo

Cond. El Haya Ed. 2 Depto. 6, Xalapa, Veracruz 91070, Mexico (aemcandrews@yahoo.ca, jorgemontejodiaz@yahoo.com.mx)

Central America



**H. Lee Jones
Oliver Komar**

The unprecedented invasion of waterfowl and shorebirds into the Region this past winter continued well into spring, with at least one species, Lesser Scaup, lingering more than a month past its normal departure date. Of great interest was the discovery of 80 Double-toothed Kites migrating with Plumbeous Kites along Guatemala's Caribbean coast. Like Hook-billed Kite, a species long thought to be strictly resident but now known to have at least one migratory population, at least one population of Double-toothed Kites appears to be migratory—definitely something to keep an eye on.

We are pleased to see an increasing number

of reports coming in from Nicaragua, easily the least ornithologically explored of the seven countries that comprise Central America. For this we owe a debt of gratitude to diligent observers Liliانا Chavarria, Nicaragua country coordinator, and her colleagues Manfred Bienert and Georges Duriaux.

Almost without fail, each season brings at least one country first, and this spring was no exception. El Salvador recorded its first Southern Lapwing, Hudsonian Godwit, and Dunlin, and Guatemala its first Bonaparte's Gull. Costa Rica documented its first American Bittern in more than a hundred years and Honduras recorded its first Bell's Vireo since 1932. We also report Nicaragua's first five records of Spotted Nightingale-Thrush from this spring and in winter 2010-2011, all from the same locality.

TINAMOUS THROUGH RAPTORS

Thicket Tinamou occurs on the Guatemalan Pacific slope locally. Continuous monitoring efforts have provided few records from Atitlán Volcano; thus, 3 calling birds in Los Tarrales, Suchitepéquez 16 May (KE) was a high number. In Honduras, 3 Northern Shovelers and 4

Lesser Scaup on the Zamorano campus, *Francisco Morazán* 6 May (OK, ph. PS), and another Lesser Scaup there 19 May (OK), were all late migrants. In Nicaragua, 8 Lesser Scaup, mostly females, in El Guayabo wetlands, *Granada* 27 May (MB) were likewise very late. Some Ring-necked Duck records of interest this spring included, in Guatemala, 3 at Bocas del Polochic, *Izabal* 17 Mar (JPC, RC, TC), and in Honduras, the flock of 12 reported from 22 Jan was present through 9 Mar on Laguna Villa Royal, Sabana Grande, *Francisco Morazán* (ph. JvD, RJ) and a lone female continued there through 24 Apr (ph. JvD, RJ). Wintering Ring-necked Ducks have been expanding southward in the Region and have steadily increased in numbers over the past two decades.

Costa Rica's first **Hooded Merganser**, found on Laguna de Poco Sol, *Alajuela* this past winter, was last seen 13 Apr (UOCR, JDV). A male **Masked Duck** at Laguna Villa Royal 9 Mar (ph. JvD, RJ) provided the first record for *Francisco Morazán* and apparently only the 2nd recent record for Honduras. One of the 3 Ruddy Ducks discovered at Fresh Catch Fish Farm, *Belize* this past winter was still present 10 Mar (LJ, PB, JR). Belize's 2nd **Ruddy Duck** record was established when one was found 115 km to the s. at Boden



Masked Duck is nowhere common in Central America, and there are very few documented breeding records from areas north of Costa Rica. A male found at Laguna Villa Royal 9 March 2012 provided only the second recent record for Honduras. Photograph by John van Dort.

Creek Reserve, Toledo 13 & 15 Mar (LJ). Two were present on 19 Mar (LJ, SC). In Honduras, a female Ruddy Duck was on Laguna Villa Royal, Caserio La Paz 22 Jan–4 Mar (ph. JvD, RJ).

Six Black-eared Wood-Quail, a Regional endemic whose distribution and habitats are poorly known, were observed in foothill rainforest in Las Quebradonas, Bosawás Biosphere Reserve, Siuna RAAN 1 May (LC, GD). In Belize, an impressive flock of 350 Pied-billed Grebes was observed at Crooked Tree W.S. 21 Mar (MO). Also impressive were 300 Pink-footed and 400 Galapagos Shearwaters seen in Guatemala off Puerto San José, Escuintla 26 Mar (JPC). In Panama, a Wedge-tailed Shearwater was seen off the w. coast of Coiba I., Veraguas 27 Apr (GA), and 2 were 50 km sse. of Coiba I. 1 Jun (ph. EC); 2 Nazca Boobies were also there 1 Jun (ph. EC). A juv. Red-billed Tropicbird between Santa Catalina and Coiba I. 4 Mar (KG, KEa) was the 2nd for the Gulf of Chiriquí.

American White Pelican is only occasionally recorded in the Guatemalan Atlantic slope lowlands, so 36 seen at Bocas del Polochic, Izabal 17 Mar (JPC, RC, TC) were noteworthy. In Nicaragua, 10 were seen 1 Mar (MB) in Laguna de Tisma, the same place where 78 were reported in Feb. American Bitterns, rare in the Region, were seen in Honduras and Costa Rica. One reported by local birders as early as Jan was confirmed on the shore of Los Naranjos Archaeological Park, L. Yojoa, Cortés on 12 Mar (ph. DD). In Costa Rica, the first confirmed sighting of American Bittern in more than 100 years was of one found in the Medio Queso wetlands e. of Los Chiles, Alajuela 29–30 Mar (UOCR, ph. DMa, PG) and 18 Apr (CG). Two to three additional reports in the past 15–20 years have not been confirmed. In Belize, an American Bittern seen at Laguna Aguacate 6 Mar (DH) provided the first record for Cayo. In Nicaragua, where rarely reported, 2 Least Bitterns were observed in Río Boca Negra at Refugio Bartola, Río San Juan 27 Apr (MB). Fourteen Glossy Ibis were seen at Laguna de Tisma 14 Apr (MB) where up to 20 were present this past winter. Providing a new locality record in Panama, 2 Green Ibis were photographed 3 Mar on the Río Cascajal at Nuevo Tonosí, near

Portobelo, Colón (ph. ZJ).

An impressive 80 Double-toothed Kites were seen migrating with Plumbeous Kites at Punta Manabique, Izabal 31 Mar (ph. JPC). Although inter-tropical migration has apparently not been reported for this species previously, they have shown a distinct seasonal pattern in El Salvador, with most records in Feb and Mar, suggesting that some migration takes place. A juv. Cooper's Hawk at San Antonio Village, Cayo 29 Apr (RM) provided a late record for Belize. Single ad. Solitary Eagles, likely involving the same individual, were well described 3 & 6 May riding thermals in foothill rainforest in Río Labu, Bosawás Biosphere Reserve, Siuna RAAN, Nicaragua (hereafter, Río Labu; †LC, GD). Reliable reports of this species in the Region are few. In Belize at the Lubaantun Maya site, Toledo, 2 Broad-winged Hawks were observed 15 Mar circling together overhead with primaries spread wide in what appeared to be a courtship-like flight—very odd behavior for this species in the Region (MO, LZ, LJ et al.). Providing only the 3rd record for Belize s. of the coastal pine savannas, a juv. White-tailed Hawk was at The Dump, Toledo 13 Mar (LJ, SC). Crested Eagle is one of the rarest raptors in Central America, with few documented records from Belize. An ad. well seen at the La Milpa Ecolodge and Research Center, Orange Walk 6 Apr (ph. VR) was at the only locality in the country with multiple sightings in the past few years, perhaps indicative of a local breeding pair. With only one documented nesting record for Guatemala, a pair of Black-and-white Hawk-Eagles seen flying over Tikal N.P., Petén 19 Mar (KE, RS, LAG) was noteworthy. A Red-throated Caracara in Vallecito, La Unión, Olancho 28 Mar (RB, VT, RG) was in pine-oak forest at about 900 m elevation. Notwithstanding recent reports in Jun 2011 (RG) in this same area, the species has been nearly extirpated from Honduras.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH DOVES

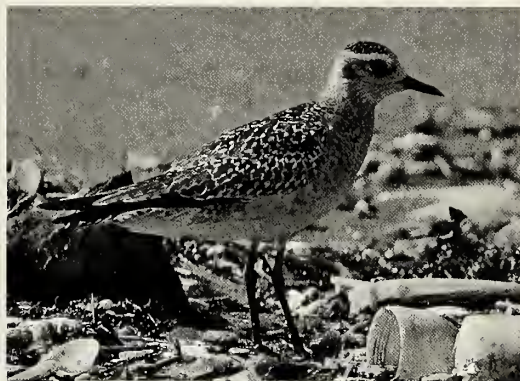
El Salvador recorded its first Southern Lapwing 26 Mar, when one turned up at an oxidation pond in El Jute near Laguna El Jocotal, San Miguel (ph. JA). This species is gradually extending its range northward and had been anticipated for several years. In Costa Rica, where it is now well established, 2 Southern Lapwings recorded at San Pablo de Heredia, Heredia 14 Apr (UOCR, RV) provided a high elevation (1300 m) record. Seldom seen in Guatemala, an American Golden-Plover was at Punta Manabique 31 Mar (ph. JPC). Although recorded

more regularly in El Salvador in migration, likely due to more observers afield, 24 at Lago de Guija on 29 Apr (GG, EdC, MP, EG) was both an impressive number and established the first record for Santa Ana. In Nicaragua where it is also rarely reported, 7 were at Laguna de Tisma, Masaya 2 May (ph. MB).

The major incursion of American Avocet last



Southern Lapwing has been expanding its range northward for many years now from eastern Panama through western Panama and into Costa Rica, where several small breeding populations have become established since the mid-2000s. Vagrants have occurred as far north as Belize, Mexico, and the United States (Maryland). Thus, El Salvador's first record, obtained 26 March 2012 at an oxidation pond near Laguna El Jocotal, came as no surprise. Photograph by Jeniffer Abrego.



American Golden-Plover should be a fairly frequent spring migrant in northern Central America (for example, in Belize), but its preferred habitats, short-grass savannas and fields, occur locally and are not often birded. This one, photographed at Punta Manabique 31 March 2012, provided one of the few documented records for Guatemala. Photograph by John Poul Cahill.



Seven American Avocets turned up at Fresh Catch Fish Farm, Belize on 10 March 2012. Although a few avocets are seen almost annually in Central America, winter 2011–2012 was perhaps the best year on record for avocets in Belize and elsewhere in Central America. Photograph by Lee Jones.



While Hudsonian Godwit may be a fairly common spring migrant in the airspace above Central America, this strong-flying, long-distance migrant is seldom seen, as it is believed to pass through the region without making landfall. It was recorded for the first time in El Salvador this spring, when this bird, a male, was seen at Bocana Río Jiboa 12 May 2012. Photograph by Enrique Choussy.

fall and winter continued into the spring, breaking records for this species. Following the best winter on record for American Avocet in Belize, 7 remained at Fresh Catch Fish Farm at least through 10 Mar (PB, ph. LJ). In Nicaragua, one was seen in Laguna de Tisma 2 Apr (ph. MB), and another was in Salinas Grandes, Leon 1 May (ph. MB). In Panama, a group of 4 was found 2 Mar at Costa del Este, Panamá (ph. OQ). The group, which later included as many as 9 and was seen by many, was present until at least 21 May (GK). Elsewhere, a flock of 8 was seen 15 May at Aguadulce Salinas, Coclé (VW). The six previous records for Panama have all been of single birds. The Costa del Este record was the easternmost yet for Panama. A rare migrant on the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica, 2 Upland Sandpipers were seen in the Medio Queso wetlands e. of Los Chiles 9 Apr (UOCR, ph. DMA, PG). Although the bulk of the world's Hudsonian Godwits almost certainly pass through Central America on their long northward migration every spring, these high-flying migrants are seldom reported because they rarely stop to rest or refuel. El Salvador recorded its first **Hudsonian Godwit** this spring when a presumed male was seen in Bocana Río Jiboa, La Paz 12 May (AM, ph. EC). Another first for El Salvador was a **Dunlin** in alternate plumage, also at Bocana Río Jiboa, on 26 May (AM, EC); unfortunately no photograph was obtained. Rounding out an impressive list of shorebirds found in El Salvador this spring were 7 Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Cerrón Grande 29 Apr (ph. RI, ph. JA, MBo). There are only three previous records for the country, and these were the first to be recorded in *Chalatenango*.

Guatemala's first **Bonaparte's Gull** was found at Sipacate, *Escuintla* 25 Mar (ph. JPC). Providing one of the few records for s. Belize and the



A seldom-seen transient shorebird in Central America, Buff-breasted Sandpiper may be largely overlooked because its preferred short-grass habitats are seldom visited by birders. With only three previous records for El Salvador, seven Buff-breasteds present at Cerrón Grande on 29 April 2012 (here) made an impressive find. Photograph by Jeniffer Abrego.

first report of more than one individual, 2 Forster's Terns were at the Texaco wharf in Punta Gorda 19 Mar (LJ). In Nicaragua's El Guayabo wetlands, where 15 were seen in Jan, 4 remained until 14 Apr and 3 until 27 May (all MB). A Common Ground-Dove near Gallon Jug 4 Mar (DH), likely a wintering bird, provided the first record for w. *Orange Walk*.

OWLS THROUGH WOODCREEPERS

A calling Pacific Screech-Owl on the Zamorano campus 6 Apr (OK) was relocated again on 27 May (OK, ER, ph. PS), this time accompanied by another ad. and a recently fledged juvenile. These observations confirm the first record of breeding in Honduras and the first report for *Francisco Morazán*. Previous records have been from *Choluteca* and *Valle*. Also in Honduras, a Northern Pygmy-Owl was found 24-25 Mar just outside the limits of the Cerro Yuca Biological Reserve, *Francisco Morazán* (OK, ph. JvD, RJ). Another was heard calling 16-18 May at La Picucha, Sierra de Agalta N.P., *Olancho* (RB, MM), establishing the easternmost record for the species to date. In Belize, a Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl at Big Falls, *Toledo* 13 & 19 Mar (ph. LJ, SC) was unexpected. Choco, who lives nearby, had been hearing this bird for about a month but did not realize what it was until it was discovered independently by Jones 13 Mar. Other than an undated record from Barranco Village around two years ago (JL, *fide* LJ), this is believed to be the first occurrence in the district e. of the Maya Mtns.

Two Short-tailed Nighthawks were closely observed perched and in flight shortly after dark on 5 May near Hidden Valley Inn, *Cayo* (JU, CM). Together, these provide only the 4th sight record for Belize and the first in 10 years. Of the few records of Eastern Whip-poor-will in Belize, most have been of tower-killed birds. On an evening cruise up the Río Grande 8 km n. of Punta Gorda, *Toledo*

on 15 Mar, 2 silent birds were detected by eyeshine in dense vegetation along the river bank (ph. MO, LJ, LZ et al.), suggesting that this species may pass through Belize largely undetected. Rare and poorly known in Nicaragua, a female Black-crested Coquette was mist-netted 3 May in foothill rainforest in Río Labu (LC, ph. GD). Individual ad. male Honduran Emeralds were at La Brea, *Santa Bárbara* 18 May and at Arada, *Santa Bárbara* 29 May (both DG). Both were observed inside pine-oak forest near highly disturbed or cleared grazing areas. These represent the first sightings of this species in pine-oak forest. But it is still uncertain if the species uses that forest type just for access to foraging areas in dry forest or pastures. An adequately described Blue-tailed Hummingbird was seen and photographed at Monteverde (Finca Ecológico), *Puntarenas* 20 Mar (ph. MG, CG, VE), but unfortunately the photograph accompanying the record is not conclusive. Considered a vagrant, the species has been reported periodically over the years from the Monteverde area. In Nicaragua, both a male and a female Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer were seen in foothill rainforest in Río Labu 1-5 May, and a female was mist-netted 3 May (LC, GD). In Honduras, a Garnet-throated Hummingbird found in pine-oak habitat near a tiny patch of cloud forest at San Marcos de Colón 1 Apr (JvD, RJ) furnished the first record for *Choluteca* and was in the only suitable habitat found within the department. Another was found in La Picucha, Sierra de Agalta N.P. 15 & 17 May (MM, RB), provid-



With few records for Central America, this first-cycle Bonaparte's Gull, found at Sipacate on Guatemala's central Pacific coast 25 March 2012, was a first for the country. Photograph by John Paul Cahill.



This Forster's Tern was one of three that remained at Nicaragua's El Guayabo wetlands until at least 27 May 2012 (here). An unprecedented 15 were present earlier in the winter. Photograph by Manfred Bienert.

ing the easternmost record of the species in Honduras. Belize's 6th record of Long-billed Starthroat was obtained 17 May when an ad. was observed just outside Blue Creek Village, Toledo (†JU). Three of the six records have been in the latter half of May, two in Jul, and one in Sep. Also in Belize, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Green Hills Butterfly Ranch, Cayo 5 May (†JM) was exceptionally late.

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher is rarely reported in Nicaragua. A male was seen in a tributary creek of Río Papaturro in Refugio Bartola, Río San Juan 11 May (ph. MB). Two different male Wing-banded Antbirds were mist-netted in foothill rainforest of Río Labu, 3 & 5 May (LC, ph. GD). Previously, in Jan and Mar 2011, LC and GD had captured 3 in Musun Natural Reserve, Matagalpa. These five captures provide additional information about the distribution of this poorly known species in Nicaragua. Also seldom reported in Nicaragua, 2 Ocellated Antbirds were mist-netted at Río Labu 5 May, and 2 Scaly-throated Leafshredders and 2 Striped Woodhaunters were mist-netted there 3 & 4 May (all LC, ph. GD).

In Panama, a Streaked Xenops was seen 29 Apr on the Sendero El Retoño in La Amistad



Northern Pygmy-Owl is rarely reported south of Guatemala. One heard calling at La Picucha in Sierra de Agalta National Park 16-18 May 2012 was farther east than the species was previously known to occur. One found 24-25 (here 25) March 2012 was just outside the limits of the Cerro Uyuca Biological Reserve and marked a first record for southern Honduras. Photograph by John van Dort.

N.P., Chiriquí (2170 m). What was perhaps the same bird was seen the following day at 2100 m near the park entrance (both MF). This species has not been reported previously above 1800 m in Panama. Seldom reported in Nicaragua, a Long-tailed Woodcreeper was mist-netted 8 May at Río Labu (LC, ph. GD), a first departmental record. Elsewhere, a Strong-billed Woodcreeper heard at Cerro Alux, Sacatepéquez 12 May (KE) was at a locality in the Guatemalan Pacific slope highlands where this species had not previously been recorded.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Rare in Panama, an Ochraceous Pewee was seen at 2400 m on the Sendero La Cascada in La Amistad N.P., Chiriquí 30 Apr (MF). Noteworthy was a Cassin's Kingbird 2 & 4 Apr at Cerro de Hula (ph. JvD, RJ), the same site where one (presumably the same bird) was reported this winter. There are few documented records for



Although the species reaches its northern limit in Honduras, Green-and-rufous Kingfisher is rarely reported north of Costa Rica. Thus, this male photographed along a tributary creek of Río Papaturro in Refugio Bartola, Nicaragua 11 May 2012 was noteworthy. Photograph by Manfred Bienert.



Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl has a complex distribution in Belize. Prior to spring 2012, it had not been documented from the coastal zone of Toledo, Belize's southernmost district. One heard calling 13 March 2012 and photographed 19 March at Big Falls (here) filled a distributional gap between central Belize and Guatemala's Caribbean lowlands. In fact, the record of this bird, along with a recent unconfirmed but intriguing report from Barranco, near the Guatemala border, suggests that the species may be colonizing Belize's southern coastal zone from the south rather than from the north. Photograph by Lee Jones.

several recent reports from the Monteverde area. Providing only the 6th record for Belize and the first for the mainland, a Black-whiskered Vireo was observed 85 km inland at Santa Familia, Cayo 22 Apr (JU, RM). All Belize records have been in spring. In Honduras, a Brown Jay seen just outside the city of Choluteca, Choluteca 11 Mar (JvD, RJ) provided an exceptionally rare Pacific slope record for this Caribbean-slope species.

Purple Martins tend to stay close to the Caribbean coast in migration through Costa Rica, so 500+ migrating with Swainson's Hawks, Turkey Vultures, and *Chaetura* swifts at 700 m in the interior valley at San Isidro de El General, San José 24 Mar (RH) was unexpected. Seldom seen as far n. as Costa Rica, a Brown-chested Martin was seen in a small, low-flying flock of migrating Bank Swallows in the Medio Queso wetlands 8 May (JH, HB, JZ). Perhaps establishing a high-elevation record for the Region, 2 Mangrove Swallows were seen 4 Mar and one was seen 16 Mar (JvD, RJ) at Laguna Villa Royal, Caserio La Paz (1025 m). Previously, the highest elevation of record for Honduras was 900 m along the Choluteca R. in Tegucigalpa. A Cave Swallow at San Marcos de Colón, Choluteca 1 Apr (JvD, RJ) was noteworthy. With just a handful of previous records from Honduras, primarily from Nov-Mar, its status is still poorly known.

A common species of humid lowland forest,

Central America, this being the 4th for Honduras and Francisco Morazán. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher in a cattle-grazing area in Rocja Pomtilá, Alta Verapaz 19 May (EFC) was the first to be reported at that Guatemalan site. Rare anywhere on the Pacific slope, a singing White-eyed Vireo was on the Zamorano campus 8 Apr (OK). In Costa Rica at the s. extreme of its winter range, one was seen at 800-m Hacienda El Rodeo, San José 24 Mar (CS). Providing only the 2nd record for Honduras, a Bell's Vireo was at Laguna Villa Royal, Sabana Grande 14 Apr (ph. JvD). The first record was in 1932. Two Blue-headed Vireos seen together at Finca Ecológico, Monteverde 19 Mar (RH) were exceptional. This species is a very rare winter visitor as far south as Costa Rica, although there have been



At the northern end of the species' range in Nicaragua, where it is poorly known, two Striped Woodhaunters were mist-netted in foothill rainforest at Río Labu 3 (here) and 4 May 2012. Photograph by Georges Durieux.

2 Long-billed Gnatwrens that responded to Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl calls at Ceguaca in Honduras 18 May (ph. DG) were in dry forest scrub and were the first to be recorded in *Santa Barbara*. Rare and poorly known in Nicaragua, several American Dippers were found along the Río Labu between 250 m and 450 m elevation. At least 3 birds were seen almost daily 1-7 May; and 2 more were in rainforest habitat along the Quebradonas, a tributary of the Río Labu, on 7 May (LC, ph. GD). Historically, the species had been found only in the n.-cen. highlands in pine-oak forest; however, there are no recent records from that area. These recent reports contribute to our understanding of the distribution of dippers in Nicaragua.

First reported in Nicaragua in Dec 2010 when 4 **Spotted Nightingale-Thrushes** were mist-netted at Tepesomoto La Patate Preserve, *Madriz* (OA), another individual was mist-netted in the same locality 30 Mar (LC, ph. GD). These two records may represent a previously undetected isolated population in Nicaragua. Other than a historical record from 1935 near Tegucigalpa and a 2010 record from Montaña de Isopo, *Francisco Morazán*, a Gray-cheeked Thrush seen 28 Mar at the latter location (JvD, RJ) provided only the 3rd Pacific-slope record of this species in Honduras. Exceptional was a Gray Catbird at 1200 m on the Pacific slope of Costa Rica at Río Negro de Coto Brus, *Puntarenas* 23 Apr (ph. DK). Catbirds are expected winter visitors only in the Caribbean lowlands. A Tropical Mockingbird seen 4 km nw. of Purulhá, *Baja Verapaz* 27 Mar (KE) was in an area where the species had not been recorded previously. The only report received this spring of Cedar Waxwing in the Region was of 5 birds seen at Santa Ana, *Francisco Morazán* 14 Mar (JvD).

WARBLERS THROUGH EUPHONIAS

An exceptionally late Louisiana Waterthrush was at Boquerón N.M., *Olancho* 5 May (RB). Also in Honduras, 4 male Golden-winged Warblers seen in a small mixed flock at Vallecito, La Unión 27 Mar (RB) was a high count. In Costa Rica, a Cape May Warbler at Tapantí N.P., *Cartago* 4 Mar (UOCR, PW) was unexpected, although a few other recent records exist for this casual winter visitor farther down this drainage near Turrialba. In El Salvador, a Northern Parula at Hotel Decameron Sanelitas 26 Mar (CR) provided

the first record for *Sonsonate*. Very rare on the Pacific slope, a Bay-breasted Warbler was seen in Honduras on the Zamorano campus 22 Apr (OK). A Prairie Warbler seen near Blancaneaux Lodge, *Cayo* 15 Mar (BC) provided one of the few mainland records for Belize.

First reported in Nicaragua this past winter from Bartola, a male **Scarlet-thighed Dacnis** was seen 30 Apr in second growth in the Bosawás buffer zone, *Rosa Grande*, *Siuna* RAAN (GD, LC). This report represents a range extension of 320 km within Nicaragua and more than 400 km from its former n. limit in Costa Rica. The distribution of Slaty Finch in Central America n. of Costa Rica is still unclear. One seen at close range at Montaña de Isopo 6 Apr (RJ) provided only the 4th record for Honduras. What was perhaps the same individual was found again 25 Apr (RJ, JvD). A territorial Prevost's Ground-Sparrow was seen at the unusually low elevation of 200 m in Rocjá Pomtilá 19 May and several subsequent days (EfC, RCA). Although locally common non-breeding visitors to the Pacific slope of n. Central America, Grasshopper Sparrows are often overlooked. Komar surveyed a 2-ha resting bean field on the Zamorano campus throughout this spring and found high densities of Grasshopper Sparrows, peaking at 86 birds 15 Apr (OK, PS); all but one had left by 14 May. This was the same field that was visited by a Savannah Sparrow last winter. In Guatemala, where it is seldom reported, 6 Grasshopper Sparrows were seen at Sipacate 24 Mar (JPC), and 3 were at Punta Manabique 31 Mar (ph. JPC).

A male Indigo Bunting seen 4 Mar on Coiba I. (KG, KEa) provided the first record for this large Panamanian island. Belize's only winter records of Dickcissel have been from The Dump, where a few birds have been present at least through early winter since 2005. Two remained at The

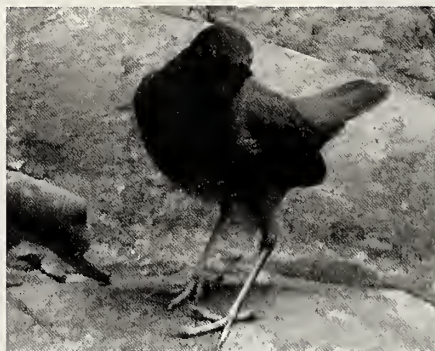
Dump this past winter through 12 Mar (LJ, MO), confirming its presence there into early spring. Impressive was a flock of at least 1000 Dickcissels in the Blue Creek rice fields, *Orange Walk* 23 Apr (VR). A male Red-winged Blackbird seen at 1900 m at Las Brisas de Zarcero, *Alajuela* 3 Apr (UOCR, ph. DR) was at a significantly higher elevation than expected (the elevational limit for this species is around 600 m); however, this 1300-m elevational grade is achieved across only 16 km in this area. While the bird may have been a stray, the habitat, wet pastures, would seem suitable for breeding. A female Yellow-throated Euphonia seen on the Zamorano campus 8 Apr (†OK) provided what is presumed to be the first Pacific-slope record for Honduras. Although locally common at some sites in El Salvador and Nicaragua, this bird was clearly a vagrant.

Contributors (country coordinators in bold-face): Jeniffer Abrego, Linda Andes-Georges, **George Angehr** (Panama), Osmar Arróliga, Philip Balderamos, Harry Barnard, Ruth Bennett, Manfred Bienert, Melvin Bonilla (MBo), Efraín Caal (EfC), Roberto Caal (RCA), Eder Caceres (EdC), John Paul Cahill, Rob Cahill, Tara Cahill, Bobby Carr, **Liliana Chavarría** (Nicaragua), Steven Choco, Enrique Choussy, Daryush Dehghan, Georges Duriaux, Kevin Easley, **Knut Eismann** (Guatemala), Vince Elia, Michael Froude, Robert Gallardo, Giovanni García, Mark Garland, Paola Gastazzi, **Daniel Germer** (Honduras), Carlos Gómez, Kees Groenendijk, Emerson Guardado, Jason Horn, Rich Hoyer, Dan Hubbard, Ricardo Ibarra, Zeke Jakub, **Rosely Juárez** (El Salvador), **Lee Jones** (Belize), Daniel Karp, Gwen Keller, Oliver Komar, Judy Lumb, Daniel Martínez (DMa), Roni Martínez, Jan Meerman, Mayron Mejía, Camille Meyers, Álvaro Moisés, **Daríen Montañez** (Panama),

Michael O'Brien, Milagro Portillo, Osvaldo Quintero, Joshua Richards, Chris Robinson, David Rodríguez, Vladimir Rodríguez, Ervin Romero, Connie Sandlin, Ruth Stewart, Paul Stufkens, Virgil Troyer, Unión de Ornitólogos de Costa Rica website (UOCR), Jonathan Urbina, John van Dort, Juan Diego Vargas, Roberto Vargas, Pieter Westra, Venicio Wilson, Louise Zemaitis, **Jim Zook** (Costa Rica). ☺



Providing the second record for Honduras, and the first since 1932, this Bell's Vireo was photographed at Laguna Villa Royal in Sabana Grande, about 25 kilometers south of Tegucigalpa, on 14 April 2012. Photograph by John van Dort.



American Dipper is very uncommon and local along clean, rocky streams in Central America. In Nicaragua, much of which remains poorly explored, it is known historically only from pine-oak forest in the north-central highlands, where it has not been found recently. Noteworthy, therefore, were several American Dippers (3 or more most days) at elevations of 250-450 m along the Río Labu 1-7 May 2012. Two others, including the one shown here, were found in rainforest habitat along the Quebradonas, a tributary of the Río Labu, on 7 May 2012. Photograph by Georges Duriaux.

H. Lee Jones, 3 Ogaldez Street, Punta Gorda, Belize (bzbirdman@gmail.com)
Oliver Komar, Zamorano University, Department of Environment and Development Studies, Km 35, Carretera a Danlí, Francisco Morazán, Honduras (okomar@zamorano.edu)



Robert L. Norton
Anthony White
Andrew Dobson
Eddie Massiah

Highlights of the spring period in Bermuda included some exciting seawatching from Cooper's Point, where a good variety of tubenoses and skuas was recorded; observers at Guadeloupe continued to document seabird migration from productive seawatches there as well. Garganey, Eurasian Teal, and Ruff appeared on Bermuda, along with a record number of Chimney Swifts in St. Georges Parish. In the Bahamas, an expedition was made to the Cay Cal Bank, sponsored by the Society for Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds, the Biodiversity Research Institute, and the Bahamas National Trust. The principal results of this seabird survey will be published elsewhere, but selected observations are included here; the expedition's leaders, Will Mackin and Lisa Eggert, are listed as the observers. A significant fallout of migrants was recorded at the Cayman Islands in April.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

Thirteen West Indian Whistling-Ducks were noted roosting 13 May at Fort Anglais, Sud, Haiti (SC); one was at Southgate Pond, St. Croix, U. S. Virgin Island 8 Mar (CC-B), perhaps the same bird seen at Mannings Bay last winter. An imm. Snow Goose was at Mid-Ocean G.C. 5-19 Apr (GB), and a Canada Goose was an unusual spring arrival at Spittal Pond, also Bermuda 14 May (DBW). The Canada Goose that had been at Treasure Cay G.C., Abaco since Jul 2011 was last seen 22 Apr (EB). Two Gadwalls were at Wilson's Pond, New Providence, Bahamas 10 Mar (WP, PD, LL, LHa). On 31 May, 2 Gadwalls were seen flying westward over the Gulf Stream s. of Bimini (WM, LE et al.). Ten American Wigeons, 5 males and 5 females, were at Mannings Bay, St. Croix 9 Mar (LY, CC-B). Eighty Northern Shovelers were on San Salvador, Bahamas

7 Mar (MA, TJ). Four Northern Shovelers, 2 males and 2 females, were at Southgate Pond, St. Croix 8-22 Mar (CC-B), and a male was at Mannings Bay east pond with a male Green-winged Teal 9 Mar (LY, CC-B). The wintering female Garganey was last seen on Spittal Pond, Bermuda 23 Apr (AD). Bermuda's 2 long-staying male Eurasian Teal were last seen together on Tucker's Point G.C. 13 Mar, with one of them noted on Mid-Ocean G.C. 18 Mar (AD). Four Masked Ducks were seen at Elim Pools, Saint Elizabeth, Jamaica 2 Mar (KH). Two Ruddy Ducks were reported from Hotel Paradisus Río de Oro, Holguín, Cuba 19 Apr (SV). An American Flamingo wandered to the Cayman Islands 4 Mar at Malportas subdivision pond and remained through the spring (CR-S, SM, PDa).

A record 101 breeding pairs of Bermuda Petrels were confirmed 22 Mar (JM). Several seawatches were conducted at Cooper's Pt., Bermuda this spring (Table 1); the phenology of seabird migration in spring is little understood in our Region, and so each set of data is helpful in gauging status and distribution of tubenoses, jaegers, terns, and other seabirds in the sw. North Atlantic. In addition to a Cooper's Pt. seawatch that day, a 60-minute seawatch at Elbow Beach, Bermuda 30 Mar (PW) recorded Cory's Shearwaters (50) and Manx Shearwaters (2). Two each Cory's and Sooty Shearwaters were seen 5 km off Munjack Cay, Abaco 18 May (EB). Two Wilson's Storm-Petrels were

seen in the Gulf Stream (25.168° N, 78.198° W) 31 May (WM, LE et al.). On the way back from a whale-watching trip off Bermuda 12 Apr, a possible Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was seen by David Wingate; this species has not been seen in Bermuda waters before, and it is typically a late May arrival at this latitude in the United States. A Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was reported s. of Grand Bahama 26 May (WM, LE et al.). From Pointe des Châteaux, Guadeloupe, 3 Great Shearwaters were noted 30 May and 9 Cory's Shearwaters 23 May (FD). East of Désirade, Guadeloupe, a Manx Shearwater was seen 8 Apr (AL, FD), 13 Wilson's Storm-Petrels 6 May (AL, FD), and a Leach's Storm-Petrel 8 Apr (AL, FD).

On 19 Apr a group from the Shedd Aquarium Exuma Iguana Research Expedition (R/V *Coral Reef II*) observed about 8 White-tailed Tropicbirds flying the length of Bitter Guana Cay in the Exuma Cays, and several were seen in the rock cavities along the Exuma Sound side of the cay (MH, *vide* SB). Two Neotropic Cormorants were at the Treasure Cay G.C., Abaco 27 Mar+ (EB), and 7 were seen flying southward at Las Damas Cays, Cay Sal Bank 27 May (WM, LE et al.). Two Double-crested Cormorants were seen at Patrick's Island L., Cayman Islands 29 May (PDa), and one was noted 25 May at Reserva Natural Isla de Mona, Puerto Rico (LS). An American White Pelican was seen over the Marls, Abaco 3 May (NR), and another was at Malportas Pond,

Table 1. Results of seawatches from Cooper's Point, Bermuda, 10 March through 20 May 2012.

Species / Date	10 Mar	20 Mar	22 Apr	18 May	19 May	20 May
Bermuda Petrel			1			
Cory's Shearwater		81	2	14	14	20
Great Shearwater				10	5	8
Sooty Shearwater				40	50	128
Manx Shearwater	60+	15	23		2	2
Wilson's Storm-Petrel			15			
Leach's Storm-Petrel			23	1	1	
storm-petrel sp.			30			
Great Skua				1		1
South Polar Skua						1
skua sp.					1	1
Pomarine Jaeger			17	9	6	7
Parasitic Jaeger			4	1		2
Long-tailed Jaeger					4	10
jaeger sp.			15			
Duration (minutes)	60	30	150	60	180	240
Observer(s)	PW	PW	AD, PW	AD, PW	AD, PH, PW, DBW	AD, PW

Cayman Islands 24 Apr (PDa). Brown Pelicans were noted nesting on a cay (probably Pigeon Cay) in Bimini Lagoon 12 Apr (PD). Brown Pelicans noted away from breeding colonies included one at Farmers Cay, Exumas 25 Mar (KJ) and singles at Nassau 10 Mar and 26 Apr (WP, PD, LL).

An American Bittern flew over Hobby Horse L., New Providence 3 Mar (TH). Four Least Bitterns were reported at Marais de Port-Louis (Nord), Guadeloupe 26 May (FD, ED). A rare White Ibis was reported at Font Hill Nature Preserve, Saint Elizabeth, Jamaica 31 Mar (AK). A **Roseate Spoonbill** visited ponds at Adelaide, New Providence in early May (PM, *fide* LG). Two Turkey Vultures were noted at Colliers, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands 20 May (PDa). Ospreys have been nesting at the same site on Sandy Cay, s. Exumas since at least 1996 (SB). Single Swallow-tailed Kites were over Paget 10-11 Mar (KH-S) and the Bermuda Airport 13 Mar (PW). Two Northern Harriers were at Wilson's Pond 7 Mar (TH, BH, ToW). In Bermuda, a Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen along Wreck Rd. 24-31 Mar (DBW), with perhaps the same bird over the Hamilton Harbour islands 25 Mar (AD); another was at Fort St. Catherine 6 Apr (PW). A long-staying pair of Red-tailed Hawks built a nest at Morgan's Pt., Bermuda 31 Mar (AD, PW, DBW). The **Swainson's Hawk** that wintered at the Treasure Cay Farm, Abaco was last seen 22 Mar (EB, WB). Single Merlins were at Gladstone Road Agriculture Center, New Providence 6 Mar (WP, PD, TH) and Big Bird Poultry Farm, Abaco 25 Apr (EBo, JS). A Peregrine Falcon was over Government House, Bermuda 28 Mar (RG). A Peregrine Falcon was over Bimini 12 Apr (PD). A Yellow-breasted Crake put in an appearance at Refugio de Vida Silvestre de Boquerón, Puerto Rico 23 May (JI).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH PARROTS

One of the Red Knots wintering on Bermuda was still on Coopers I. 13 Apr (TW), and a breeding-plumaged bird was at Spanish Pt. 24 May (DBW). A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Spittal Pond, Bermuda 13-23 May (AD). Observations of a female **Ruff** at Cooper's I., Bermuda 4 Apr (DBW) and 16 May (TW) may have involved the same individual. A young male **Ruff** was seen at Cayman Brac airport 22-25 May (CR-S, SM; *fide* PB), a first Cayman Islands record. High shorebird counts at Green Turtle Cay, Abaco 3 Apr included 70 Semipalmated Plovers, 3 Red Knots, 25 Sanderlings, 20 Western Sandpipers, 40 Dunlins, and 95 Short-billed Dowitchers (EB). Boyd and Stasz found 2 Eastern Willets and 2 Western Willets in the Lucayan Harbour mangroves, Grand Bahama 23 Apr; clearly, there is overlap between

the wintering birds (western subspecies) and birds of the breeding eastern subspecies. Five Upland Sandpipers, a species rare in spring, were at West End, Grand Bahama 28 Apr (EBo, JS). A Whimbrel at West End 28 Apr (EBo, JS) and 3 at Spanish Wells, Eleuthera 11-12 May (PDo) were also unusual for spring. Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at the Cricket Ground, Cayman Islands 23 May (PDa, TB), forced down by bad weather. There were 40 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Green Turtle Cay 19 Apr (EB). Three White-rumped Sandpipers were at the Treasure Cay Dump 25 May (EB). Eighteen Wilson's Phalaropes were counted in Chancery Pond, Clarence Town, Long I., Bahamas 4 Apr (DW). In Bermuda, a female Wilson's Phalarope was discovered along Jubilee Rd. 12 May; it then remained at Spittal Pond 13-23 May (AD).

A Black-headed Gull that wintered in Nassau, New Providence was last seen 10 Mar (WP, LL). Ten Ring-billed Gulls were reported at Palmas del Mar, Humacao, Puerto Rico 28 May (RGL). Five Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Arawak Cay, Nassau, New Providence 6 Mar (ToW), while singles were at Bimini, Bahamas 12 Apr (PD), Punta Algarrobo, Puerto Rico 4 May (LM), and Southgate Pond, St. Croix 1 May (ph. CC-B). A Great Black-backed Gull was at Montague Beach, New Providence 10 Mar (WP, PD, LL). A wintering Iceland Gull at St. Georges Harbour 20 Apr (AD) provided the latest recorded date for Bermuda.

Two Gull-billed Terns were seen at Cayman Brac, Westerly Pond bench lookout, Cayman Islands 24 May (CR-S, SM). As many as 9 Gull-billed Terns were counted at Boca de Nigua, San Cristóbal, Dominican Republic 6 May (IM), representing one of the largest counts in some time (RLN). Two Black Terns were noted at Malportas NW, new subdivision Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands 27 May (SM, CR-S). A Roseate Tern was in the Hamilton Harbour islands, Bermuda 16-17 May+ (DBW). Two of Bermuda's breeding Common Terns (both banded) were first noted returning to Harrington Sound, Bermuda 27 Mar (AD). Bracey found 2 Commons at Treasure Cay Pt., Abaco 24 May and 5 there 25 May; and one was reported at Marlpits, Cayman Islands 25 May (PDa). A Forster's Tern was at Arawak Cay, Nassau, New Providence 10 Mar (WP, PD, LL). Up to 16 Sandwich Terns were reported at Go Slow Bend, Nassau, New Providence 6 Apr-6 May (ph. LH, PD, ph. TH); 22 were observed roosting on the Frederiksted Pier, St. Croix 6 Apr (SF), with 23 there 16 Apr (LY). At Guadeloupe, 2 **South Polar Skuas** passed Pointe des Châteaux 30 May (FD). Two Pomarine Jaegers were in the Santaren Channel between Cay Sal Bank and the Great Bahama Bank 27

May (WM, LE et al.).

Four White-winged Doves were seen at Pointe des Colibris, Guadeloupe 17 May (FD). Five Zenaida Doves at abandoned Shannon G.C., Grand Bahama 23 Apr (EBo, JS) made a good count. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen at Bermuda Airport 13 Mar (NM); 3 were at Angelfish Pt., Abaco 24 Apr (EB); one was at the Treasure Cay Sewage Works 3 May (EB); and 5, plus a **Black-billed Cuckoo**, were on Cotton Cay, Cay Sal Bank 28 May (WM, LE et al.). Two Bay-breasted Cuckoos, one of the Hispaniola's most endangered species, were at Parque Nacional Sierra de Bahoruco, Independencia, Dominican Republic 7 Apr (PWB). Six Barn Owls were observed interacting at Treasure Cay Farm 8 Mar (EB), and one was heard at Anguilla Cay, Cay Sal Bank 27 May (WM, LE et al.). The endemic Ashy-faced Owl was reported at Kate Wallace's Rabo de Gato, Independencia, Dominican Republic 17 Mar (ID). Three Antillean Short-eared Owls were noted on the Cay Sal Bank: a calling bird on Elbow Cay 29 May and 2 flushed on Double Headed Shot Cays 30 May (WM, LE et al.); note that this Elbow Cay is not the same as the one in Abaco, Bahamas (also appearing in this report). A Short-eared Owl was reported at Villas Claudia, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic 23 May (SBr).

A Chuck-will's-widow first heard 1 Mar at Coral Harbour, New Providence was still singing at the end of May, suggesting nesting (CW); one was observed 4 Mar after it flushed at Jolly Hill, St. Croix (LY). A Common Nighthawk was seen roosting at Devonshire, Bermuda 9 & 12 Apr (AC). A record-breaking 32+ Chimney Swifts were at St. Georges G.C., Bermuda 28 Apr (PW); 9 were still in St. Georges 15 May (PW). At least 34 Chimney Swifts were on Grand Bahama 23-24 Apr (EBo, JS); one was at the Marls, Abaco 23 Apr (EB); and 2 were on Chub Cay, Berry Islands 25 Apr (DW). A young male Ruby-throated Hummingbird was observed at Treasure Cay, Bahamas 9 Mar (EB, ph. BH) and a female there 23 Apr (EB). Two Guadeloupe Woodpeckers were seen at Deshaies, Fond Hélot, Guadeloupe 29 Mar (FD). A Northern Flicker was at Warwick Pond, Bermuda 15 Mar (TW). A late Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Bahama Palm Shores, Abaco 25 Apr (EBo, JS).

A Monk Parakeet was reported from Colliers, Cayman Islands 27 Apr (PDa). An intensive survey of Cuban (Bahama) Parrots on Abaco found that the population has grown from 2500 in 2002 to 4000+ in 2012. This growth is especially impressive, as three major hurricanes (*Frances*, *Jeanne*, and *Irene*) struck the island during the past 10 years (FRM, CS, *fide* LG). A pair of Bahama Par-

rots probably nested on New Providence this spring (PD, LG).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH ORIOLES

An Eastern Phoebe was seen at Treasure Cay 9 Mar (EB, ph. BH). Eastern Kingbirds noted in the Bahamas included 2 at the Treasure Cay Farm 21 Apr (EB), 3 at Garden of the Groves, Grand Bahama 23 Apr (EBo, JS), and 2 at Angelfish Pt., Abaco 24 Apr (EB). Yellow-throated Vireos in Bermuda were seen at Lagoon Park 10 Apr and Coral Beach Club 15 Apr (DW). A Blue-headed Vireo was at Big Bird Poultry Farm, Abaco 12 Mar (EB); also on Abaco, 2 Red-eyed Vireos were at the Marls overlook 9 Mar (EB, BH) and one at Bahama Palm Shores 25 Apr (EBo, JS). Early Black-whiskered Vireos at Nassau were heard at the Retreat 23 Mar (CW) and seen at Camperdown 31 Mar (TH). A pair of Bahama Swallows nested in the same derelict fishing boat on Arawak Cay, Nassau that they nested in last year but in a different hole (PD, LL, TH). Twenty Northern Rough-winged Swallows were at La Turba, Matanzas, Cuba seen 23 Mar (MB). Two Golden Swallows delighted observers at Boutilier, Port-au-Prince overlook, Ouest, Haiti 3 Apr (SC). The first spring Barn Swallow was reported from the East End, Bermuda 7 Mar (PW). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Shannon G.C., Grand Bahama 23 Apr (JS, EB, EBo).

Catharus thrushes made a good showing in the Bahamas 23-25 Apr, with high counts of 20 Veeries, 18 Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrushes, and 2 Swainson's Thrushes at Angelfish Pt. 24 Apr (EB). A Veery was seen at Somerset Long Bay N.R., Bermuda 29 Apr (DW). Single Swainson's Thrushes were noted in Bermuda at Wreck Hill Estate 25 Apr (WF) and Springfield N.R. 27-29 Apr (AD, DW). Also on 24 Apr, Wood Thrushes were seen at Wilson Pond, New Providence (ToW, TH) and Treasure Cay Sewage Works (EB). American Robins showed up in early Mar, with 2 at Elbow Cay, Abaco 4 Mar (ph. BC), 6 at Treasure Cay 6-10 Mar (R&JT, EB, BH), and one at Warderick Wells, Exuma Cays 6-7 Mar (ph. CB). In Bermuda, 2 robins were found at Ferry Reach 10 Mar, with 2 at Pembroke Rectory 16 Mar (AD). The largest flock of spring Cedar Waxwings (29) was at Shelly Bay, Bermuda 5 May (JM); one was on the Agriculture Grounds, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands 5 Apr (PDa). A Gray Catbird was noted at Bosque Estatal de Cambalache, Puerto Rico 17 May (JRe). European Starlings have been increasing on Abaco (EB) and have even moved onto Man-o'-War Cay (NA). They pose a serious threat to resident cavity nesting species, e.g., West Indian Woodpecker and Bahama Swallow.

On Bermuda, a migrant Louisiana Water-

thrush tarried at Spittal Pond 16-18 Mar (AD) and another at Pembroke Marsh 21 Apr (NM). Uncommon warblers in the Bahamas this spring included a Prothonotary Warbler at Bahama Palm Shores 15 Apr (JR), single Swainson's Warblers at San Salvador 10 Mar (TJ) and Treasure Cay, Abaco 12 Mar (EB, ph. BH), a Tennessee Warbler at Gladstone Road Agriculture Center 24 Apr (ToW, TH ph.), and a Nashville Warbler at Treasure Cay, Abaco 12 Mar (EB, ph. BH). A female American Redstart at Jolly Hill 11 May (LY) furnished a late date bird for St. Croix. In, Eleuthera 6 Kirtland's Warblers were seen along Madiera Rd. 23 Mar (the 10th anniversary of Dean's discovery of the site; PD, LL, LHa) and 9 were noted in s. Eleuthera 11-20 Apr (DE, JW). Blackpoll Warblers arrived early in good numbers; 16 were seen on the Blue Shark G.C., New Providence 23 Apr (WP). An *Adelaide's Warbler*—a species endemic to Puerto Rico, including *Viqueques*—was seen along the Santa Maria Bay Trail, St. Thomas 24 Mar (SR), a first record for the Virgin Islands. Later investigations in Apr found 3 birds here, at least one of which was photographed 14 Apr (ph. SR); further details are expected to be published elsewhere.

A high count of 24 Savannah Sparrows was seen at the neem tree farm in s. Abaco 12 Mar (EB). Three Grasshopper Sparrows and a Lincoln's Sparrow were at Big Bird Poultry Farm 12 Mar (EB, BH). Two Grasshoppers were at Martins Hill, Manchester, Jamaica 5 Apr (JVP-L), and one was at the Agriculture Grounds, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands 29 Apr (PDa, SM, CR-S, ph.). This species is probably more common in these locations than the few records indicate, as it is rather retiring in the West Indies. Two Rufous-collared Sparrows were seen at Reserva Científica Ebano Verde, La Vega, Dominican Republic 5 May (IM). A White-throated Sparrow was at Treasure Cay Farm 9 Mar (ph. BH, EB); another was photographed at Gilpin Pt., Abaco 5 May (ph. DS, NA).

Summer Tanagers were reported at Grand Cayman 14-17 Mar (JL-H, SM, CR-S, PDa). Single Scarlet Tanagers were at Evans Pond, Bermuda 3 May (NP), at Warwick, Bermuda 5 May (JT), at Mon Repos, Saint Lucia 15 Apr (ph. BAJ, *fide* LJ), at Ocean Club G.C., Paradise I. 17 Apr (TH, ToW), and West End, Grand Bahama 28 Apr (EBo, JS). A Northern Cardinal visited Green Turtle Cay 23 Apr (J&PR); the bird could have been an escapee. Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Camperdown, Nassau 26 Mar (TH) were surprisingly early; several were seen regularly on Treasure Cay, Abaco later in the season (EB). Seventy-five Dickcissels were counted at the Agriculture Grounds, Grand Cayman 29 Apr (PDa).

High counts for Bobolinks included 75+

at Blue Shark G.C., New Providence 23 Apr (WP) and 84 at West End, Grand Bahama 28 Apr (EBo, JS). A Bobolink was noted at Grand Harbour, Grand Cayman 25 May (PDa). The Red-winged Blackbird at Devonshire Marsh, Bermuda was last seen 8 Mar (AD); another was seen at Spittal Pond Farm 6 Apr (GL). A female Boat-tailed Grackle was on Paradise I. 23 Mar (CW). A Shiny Cowbird was at Elbow Cay, Cay Sal Bank 29 May (WM, LE et al.). A Baltimore Oriole was observed at Les Galets, Guadeloupe 8 May (FD).

Addendum: Three probable *Long-billed Curlews* were observed briefly on Shroud Cay, Exumas 25 Feb (PDa). There is no previous record of this species in the Bahamas, but there is an old report from Eleuthera of the similar Eurasian Curlew.

Observers: Michael Akresh, Nancy Albury, T. Baxter, Manfred Bienert, Warick Birdwell, Edward Boyd (EBo), P.W. Boyd, **Elwood Bracey**, Patricia Bradley, Stephen Brauning (SBr), Sandra Buckner, Casper Burrows, Brigitte Carey, Alison Copeland, Carol Cramer-Burke, **Sean Christensen**, Peter Davey (PDa), Ian Davies, Paul Dean, Eric Delcroix, Andrew Dobson, Peter Doherty (PDa), Franz Duzont, Lisa Eggert, David Ewert, Wendy Frith, Sheelagh Fromer, Lynn Gape, Rocío González Landrón, Richard Gozney, Lee Hanna (LHa), Bruce Hallett, Kelvin Hastings-Smith, Kurt Hennige, Tony Hepburn, Peter Hopkin, Linda Huber, Mary Hunter, Jorge Illanas, Lyndon John, Kevin Jolliffe, Todd Jones, Beverly Ann Joseph, Alan Kneidel, Graham Lamb, Jerry Langin-Hooper, **Anthony Levesque**, Lionel Levine, William Mackin, Jeremy Madeiros, Stuart Mailer, Pericles Maillis, Neal Morris, Ivan Mota, Luis Munoz, Robert L. Norton, Jose V. Padilla-Lopez, William Pinder, Natasha Powers, Neil Rice, Frank Rivera-Milán, John and Pat Robertshaw, Johnathan Reece (JRe), Janene Roessler, Christine Rose-Smyth, Sean Rune, Louis Santiago, Caroline Stahala, David Steadman, Jim Stasz, James Tavares, Ross and Janet Turner, Sylvie Vanier, Dorothy Wadlow, David Wallace (DWa), Carolyn Wardle, Paul Watson, Tim White, Tony White (ToW), David Wingate (DBW), Joe Wunderle, **Lisa Yntema**. 🌐

Robert L. Norton (Greater Antilles), 8960 NE Waldo Road, Gainesville, Florida 32609, (corvus0486@aol.com)

Anthony White (Bahamas Archipelago), P.O. Box 2531, Jackson, Wyoming 83001, (spindalis@aol.com)

Andrew Dobson (Bermuda) Warwick Academy, 117 Middle Road, Warwick PG 01, Bermuda, (ADobson@warwickacad.bm)

Eddie Massiah (Lesser Antilles), Johnson Road, Fitts Village, St. James, Barbados, (ebmassiah@hotmail.com)

Pictorial Highlights



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1 & 4 • Buldir Island, Alaska lies just beyond Black Oystercatcher's Aleutian breeding range, and there are occasional reports of lone birds there. More shocking was this Eurasian Oystercatcher, a first for Alaska, found by field biologists 26 May 2012 at Buldir, where it was seen sporadically into June. The pattern in the primaries indicates the *osculans* subspecies, which breeds as close as the Kamchatka coast. *Photograph by Ronan A Dugan.*

2 • This Little Egret was photographed at Listuguj on the Gaspé Peninsula 22 May 2012, but news reached the Québec birding community only in summer. At about the same time, another Little Egret appeared near Montréal, some 600 kilometers to the west. *Photograph by John Murvin Vicaire.*

3 • Despite several isolated extralimital records a few small populations outside its contiguous range, nothing in the literature suggests that Double-toothed Kite is migratory. Yet on 31 March 2012, 80 Double-toothed Kites were seen apparently migrating with Plumbeous Kites at Punta Manabique on the Caribbean coast of Guatemala. The only previous indication that some Double-toothed Kites migrate comes from El Salvador, where a seasonal pattern of occurrence has been detected in recent years, with most records being from February and March. *Photograph by John Paul Cahill.*

5 • This late Horned Grebe was still at Guerrero Negro, Baja California Sur on 23 May 2012. *Photograph by Víctor Ayala-Pérez.*

6 • Arizona's sixth Hudsonian Godwit, and the first since 1996, was at Willcox 22-27 (here 23) May 2012. *Photograph by Arlene Ripley.*



1 • This female Black-crested Coquette, a species seldom reported in Nicaragua, was mist-netted 3 May 2012 in foothill rainforest in Río Labu. *Photograph by Georges Duriaux.*

2 • Although there are over 50 records of the species in neighboring Ohio, Kirtland's Warbler is still very rare in Pennsylvania. This one found by Mike Weible at Erie, Erie County 22 May 2012 represented only the fifth accepted record for the state. *Photograph by Jerry McWilliams.*

3 • This male Lesser Goldfinch at Greencastle, Franklin County 9-10 (here 9) April 2012 represented a first record for Pennsylvania. *Photograph by Dale Gearhart.*

4 • One of two Prothonotary Warblers observed in the Great Basin in spring 2012, this male was photographed at Lytle Ranch, Washington County, Utah 22 May. *Photograph by Rick Fridell.*

5 • Who's fishing? This male Bay-breasted Warbler was at sea north of Islas Coronado, Baja California on 3 June 2012. *Photograph by Steve Brad.*

6 • Annual in Colorado, mostly in spring, Vermilion Flycatchers are particularly appreciated when they allow photography that permits ageing of individuals, such as this one at The Nature Conservancy's Brett Gray Ranch, Lincoln County 28 April 2012. The faded and worn innermost primary and two outermost secondaries, as well as the two shorter tertials and the inner greater coverts, point to this being a first-cycle bird in its first spring, an expected age for out-of-range individuals. *Photograph by Glenn Walbek.*





1 • A species considered casual in British Columbia, this male Chestnut-collared Longspur thrilled birders during its brief stay on 7 May 2012. *Photograph by Mike Tabak.*

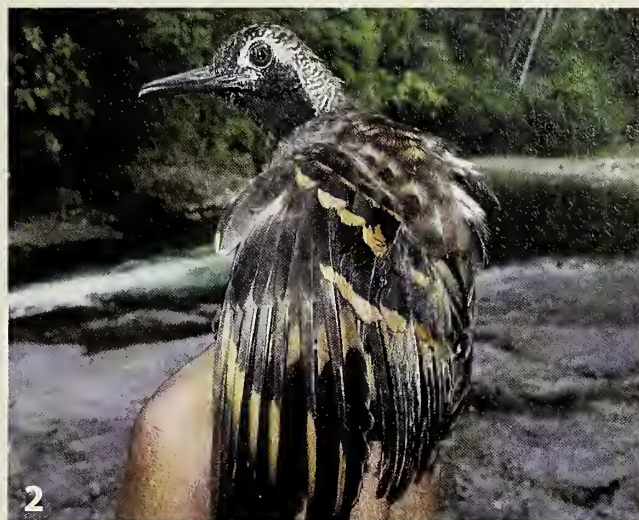
2 • Despite plentiful food handouts, and much to the chagrin of Louisiana birders, this Band-tailed Pigeon was a one-day wonder in a Lafayette, Lafayette Parish yard 22 April 2012. *Photograph by Chester Young.*

3 • This American Golden-Plover, along with six others found at Laguna de Tisma 2 May 2012, provided one of very few reports ever for Nicaragua. *Photograph by Manfred Bienert.*

4 • Furnishing only the second record for Florida, this apparently pure Elegant Tern loafed at North Lido Beach, Sarasota County 25 May 2012 (here) through the end of the spring season. *Photograph by Rick Greenspun.*

5 • In Alaska's Pribilofs, St. Paul Island birders were treated to this sub-adult White-tailed Eagle in late May 2012 (here 21 May). *Photograph by Doug Gochfeld.*

6 • This adult male Lesser Goldfinch of the "expected" black-backed nominate subspecies at Highfill, Benton County 9-12 (here 12) May 2012 was just the second or third ever found in Arkansas. *Photograph by Dan Schieman.*



1 • A casual spring visitor to Pennsylvania, this Tricolored Heron visited Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, Pennsylvania 27-30 (here 28) May 2012. Photograph by Jerry McWilliams.

2 • Wing-banded Antbird is known in Central America only from eastern Panama and several poorly known isolated populations in the Caribbean lowlands and foothills of Honduras and Nicaragua. Two male Wing-banded Antbirds mist-netted at Río Labu, 3 (here) and 5 May 2012, provide significant additional information about this enigmatic species in Nicaragua. Photograph by Georges Duriaux.

3 • This male Northern Parula with black throat was found at the James E. Grey Preserve, New Port Richey, Florida 16-17 (here 17) April 2012. At the Cape Florida Banding Station, Robin Diaz banded a second-year female parula with blackish throat 6 April 2007. Photographs by Ken Tracey.

4 • Spotted Nightingale-Thrush was discovered in Nicaragua in December 2010, when four were mist-netted in the Tepesomoto La Patate Reserve. On 30 March 2012, another individual (here) was mist-netted in the same locality. These recent records are indicative of a previously undetected population in Nicaragua and a significant eastward range extension from the nearest known population in Honduras. Photograph by Georges Duriaux.

5 & 6 • Remarkably, this apparent White-rumped Sandpiper x Dunlin hybrid (on right in Image 6) in Bayfield County, Wisconsin 23-24 (here 24) May was one of two in the Western Great Lakes region in spring 2012. Photograph by Ryan Brady.



1 • Providing one of few records for Connecticut, this Harris's Sparrow was present at Lebanon, New London County through mid-April (here 29 March) 2012. *Photograph by Mark S. Szantyr.*

2 • California's first Northern Gannet, and the first for the Pacific Ocean south of the Chukchi Sea, was seen sporadically around Southeast Farallon Island, Marin County 25 April 2012 (here) right into autumn. *Photograph by Sophie Webb.*

3 • This Field Sparrow, present in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area in the Baldwin Hills 19 (here 23) April through 9 May 2012, was a new species for Los Angeles County, California. *Photograph by John C. Sterling.*

4 • This Curlew Sandpiper was a show-stopper at Hillman Marsh, Essex County, Ontario 25-27 (here 27) May 2012, the fifth ever recorded in the Point Pelee Birding Area. *Photograph by Cherise A. Charron.*

5 • Only the second ever reported in Kentucky during spring, this Nelson's Sparrow was netted and banded on the margin of a suburban cemetery in Louisville 12 May 2012. *Photograph by Eddie Huber*

6 • This male Mourning Warbler was at the northern Roosevelt County migrant trap 12 May 2012; of about fifteen credible New Mexico records, five were found at this one locale. *Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.*



1 • This female Red-necked Phalarope was found 24 May 2012 at Milford Point, Milford, Connecticut by Steve Spector, out birding during stormy weather with strong easterly winds. *Photograph by Frank Mantlik.*

2 • Sabine's Gull is rare along the coast in the Hudson-Delaware region, particularly in spring. This adult was near Mispillion Light, Delaware 20-26 (here 23) May 2012. *Photograph by Kevin Kalasz.*

3 • The Antelope Island Causeway in Davis County, one of Utah's premiere locations for observing shorebirds, hosted Red Knots from 25 (here 30) April through 13 May 2012, including an incredible high count of 26 on 6 May. *Photograph by Paul Higgins.*

4 • On 5 May 2012 (here), Darren Clark discovered a White-eyed Vireo at Camas National Wildlife Refuge, Idaho, where it remained through the 19th, to be seen by many other birders. It provided Idaho's first record. *Photograph by Darren Clark.*

5 • Scarce in recent years in Connecticut, this adult Little Gull was with several hundred Bonaparte's Gulls at Westport, Fairfield County, Connecticut 1 April 2012. *Photograph by Mark S. Szantyr.*

6 • A spectacularly plumaged Surfbird was a crowd pleaser during its visit to the Packery Channel Jetties, Nueces County, Texas 22 (here 25) March through 1 April 2012. *Photograph by Chris Doolen.*



1 • Rare and irregular in New Mexico, with about three-dozen records overall, this male Golden-winged Warbler at Boone's Draw, Roosevelt County 14 May was one of two documented there in May 2012. Photograph by Jonathan P. Batkin.

2 • Just a few months after New York's first ever, this Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch was viewed by many during its stay at Nancy Loomis's feeders in Leyden, Lewis County 4-8 (here 5) March 2012. Photograph by Corey Finger.

3 • The appearance of this Tropical Mockingbird at Sabine Woods, Jefferson County 18 (here 19) May 2012 sparked a lively discussion about its possible provenance. If accepted, it would represent a first for Texas and the United States. Photograph by Eivand Vimraak.

4 • Documenting one of very few records for Jamaica, indeed for the Caribbean, this Spotted Rail was nicely photographed in the Upper Black River Morass 9 March 2012. This enigmatic species is common nowhere, but there are at least a half-dozen prior records from Jamaica. Photograph by Brian Gibbons.

5 • A Bahama Mockingbird at Port Canaveral, Brevard County 26 (here) through 28 April 2012 was the northernmost ever recorded in Florida. Photographs by Donny Bales.

6 • This Scarlet Tanager present along the upper end of Arrastre Creek high in the San Bernardino Mountains, San Bernardino County, California 19-22 (here 20) May 2012 was at an unexpected location for such a vagrant. Photograph by Thomas A. Benson.

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Camp Avocet

WHEN: August 11 – August 17, 2013

WHERE: Cape Henlopen State Park • Lewes, DE

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ABA's
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